

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

45 sex offenders located, 3 nabbed for pot

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Sex Offender Task Force did a four-day sweep of registered sex offenders last week, resulting in the location of 45 registered sex offenders, including three who were arrested for alleged possession and growing of marijuana plants. **See OFFENDERS on Page 4**

HANMI and MVA back extending lease to 55 years

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Marianas Visitors Authority have expressed support for a Senate bill that would ex-

tend the maximum lease terms from 40 to 55 years.

HANMI member Gloria Cavanagh, in a presentation to the House of Representatives last Friday, expressed the joint support of HANMI and

See HANMI on Page 4

Rota senator urges Torres to veto appropriation bill

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Rota senator asked Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week to veto an appropriation bill that left the three Rota senators unhappy over

the exclusion of Rota from the funding measure.

» **Notes first time to exclude Rota in appropriation measure**

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres dated April 19, 2018, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) appeals to the governor **See ROTA on Page 4**



CAR CRASH

A police officer watches as a towing company crew hooks a cable to pull out a car that fell into a ditch on the side of Monsignor Guerrero Road across the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water tank near the Northern Marianas College last Saturday morning. The male driver was injured during the accident. The car was heading down the hill when another vehicle apparently suddenly cut the outer lane. The driver lost control, causing the car to turn 180 degrees and fall into the ditch.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Audit finds CUC didn't count 'assets' in 2016

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has not counted its fixed and capital assets or equipment and real property for the

year 2016, according to an independent report released last week by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Conducted by independent auditing firm Burger, Comer, Magliari, the internal audit

showed that CUC has not conducted a physical count of its capital assets as of Sept. 30, 2016. It further said that since a physical count has not been conducted, the asset list may not include assets that have

been retired, broken, idle, destroyed, or stolen.

Fixed and capital assets must be recorded accurately by a business and the current estimated value of these assets

See AUDIT on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION

A nearly naked gunman shoots four people dead inside a Waffle House.

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ASIA

The world is watching for signs of North Korea nuclear deal at two summits.

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LIFE & STYLE

Shania Twain has apologized for saying if she were American she would have voted for Donald Trump.

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TAGA SPORTS APRIL - JUNE 2018 EDITION

Local

New rules allow photography, recording in courtrooms

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has adopted new rules that would now allow photogra-

phy, video recording, broadcasts, webcasts, and archiving inside courtrooms, in accor-

dance with the high court's policies and procedures.

Chief Justice Alexandro C.

Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos issued the administrative order that adopted the new rules last week.

According to the NMI Supreme Court Rule 53, official court reporters are permitted to make voice recordings for the sole purpose of discharging their official duties.

Rule 53 also states that, as a public service, the Supreme Court and the Supreme

Court are permitted to photograph, record, broadcast, webcast, and archive trial and appellate court proceedings in accordance with the policies and procedures of the high court.

Rule 53 further states that webcast or broadcast may not be re-published in any manner by any person, in whole or in part, without the prior express written permission of the Supreme Court.

Leadership program for officials from US territories and FAS

WASHINGTON—The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has opened applications for the 2018-2019 cohort of the Executive Leadership Development Program for candidates from the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI, and from the freely associated states of Palau, the Marshall Islands, and Federated States of Micronesia.

"The United States strives to encourage strong leadership skills among public sector officials in the U.S.-affiliated islands," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Doug Domenech. "Strengthening confidence and competence of future leaders in the territories and the freely associated states serves to strengthen our relationships."

Public sector employees from throughout the insular areas with at least two consecutive years of government service are encouraged to apply before the deadline of April 27, 2018.

Program participants will be competitively selected, and the Class of 2019 will be announced in mid-June.

Applications can be downloaded through the program website at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>.

The ELDP was developed in 2009 in response to the insular areas' growing concerns for continuity in public sector management, and to address challenges attracting and retaining qualified individuals to work in core functions of island governments. The ELDP assists the insular area governments by establishing a pool of highly qualified personnel with potential for promotion into key leadership positions.

With five graduating classes, the insular areas now count 103 alumni who have completed leadership development through the ELDP. Graduates of the program serve their governments as ambassa-

dors, elected representatives, judges, Cabinet members, directors, and dedicated public servants.

ELDP participants attend quarterly, weeklong training sessions throughout the Pacific islands; the 2019 ELDP cohort is scheduled to meet in Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Hawaii to develop public service values and skills in leadership, management, finance, policy advocacy, and government operations.

Past ELDP sessions been hosted in American Samoa, the CNMI, FSM, Guam, Palau and the Marshall Islands.

For participants from the U.S. Virgin Islands, training and travel takes place in Washington, D.C. and other locations along the East Coast where they join U.S. federal employees to participate in the Executive Leadership Program managed by the Graduate School USA's Center for Leadership and Management.

Eighteen U.S. Virgin Islands participants have completed the ELP since 2009.

Applications for the 2018-2019 ELP will commence in May. Announcements and applications for the USVI ELP can also be found at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>.

The ELDP remains competitive, with over 100 applications received and evaluated each program year. The 2018 kickoff for the Pacific islands ELDP participants will occur in Guam on Aug. 13, 2018, with program completion scheduled for June 2019. The ELDP is administered by the Graduate School USA with funding support through the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program. Additional information is available online at <http://eldp.pitiviti.org>. More information on funding assistance from the Office of Insular Affairs may be found at <https://www.doi.gov/oia/fiscal-payments>. (PR)

Public safety awareness month kicks off

The public safety awareness month of May kicked off yesterday with the signing of several proclamations by Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday.

After the proclamation signing, the Department of Public Safety led a convoy

of vehicles that traveled on Beach Road and other Saipan highways.

May 6 to 12 is CNMI Correctional Officers and Employees Week.

Torres and Hocog said Correctional officers and employees play a vital role in providing effective and efficient correctional services and programs to inmates

and the community.

May 15 was declared Peace Officers' Memorial Day, while May 13 to 19 was declared CNMI Police Week.

May 19 to 25 was proclaimed National Safe Boating Week and the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating.

Torres and Hocog de-

clared May 21 to June 3 as Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization campaign period.

DPS said a seat belt survey in 2017 revealed a 92.3-percent usage rate by travelers on the highways of the CNMI.

DPS said regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to reduce fatalities in motor vehicle crashes. (Ferdie de la Torre)



The Pacific Island Telecommunications Association kicked off its 22nd annual general membership meeting, conference and exposition yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Resort Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Docomo hosts regional telecom conference

TAMUNING, Guam—The Pacific Island Telecommunications Association kicked off its 22nd annual general membership meeting, conference and exposition yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Resort Guam.

PITA is the Pacific region's leading telecommunication body.

Each year, the AGM is hosted by a different member country. The meeting gathers prominent thought leaders, subject matter experts and policy makers who are at the forefront of improving the way their communities access and participate in the Digital Age.

The PITA AGM has been held twice in this subregion over the past 22 years, most recently in Palau in 2009. But this is a first for Guam.

The conference welcomes about 300 participants, 150 organizations from 35 countries.

It will take place over six days and will include meetings in Tumon, trainings at the Docomo Pacific headquarters and networking events from the historic capital city of Hagatna to the southern villages of Guam.

"At Docomo Pacific, we are honored by the opportunity to host the event this year. Our theme 'Unlocking and

Securing Digital Lifestyles in a Connected Pacific' defines the important transformation taking place in our region. I am confident that the 22nd PITA AGM will contribute to improving the telecommunications sector in the Pacific through great workshops, panel discussions, and presentations," said Jonathan Kriegel, president and CEO, Docomo Pacific.

PITA president Sione Veikoso said, "The PITA 2018 AGM theme...implies...the harnessing of potentials from new innovations, improving technologies and digital transformations, to developing

smart approach and continuity of key applications and services, that do not only bring about digital lifestyles, but also inherits resilience and continuity, to minimize serious disruptions during natural disasters."

The effort that Docomo Pacific has put forth to host this conference underscores its commitment to improving telemedicine, tele-education, economic growth and security in Guam and the Marianas through local and regional collaboration. Docomo Pacific extends a warm "Hafa Adai" to all visiting participants, sponsors, delegations and exhibitors of the 22nd PITA AGM. (Docomo)

USCIS launches new E-Verify.gov website

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced the launch of its new website, E-Verify.gov.

This is the authoritative source for information on electronic employment eligibility verification. E-Verify.gov is for employers, employees and the general public.

The user-friendly website provides information about E-Verify and Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification, including employee rights and employer respon-

sibilities in the employment verification process.

E-Verify.gov allows employers to enroll in E-Verify directly and permits current users to access their accounts.

Individuals with myE-Verify accounts can also access their accounts through E-Verify.gov.

"For the past decade, E-Verify has been the cornerstone of our continued commitment to helping employers maintain a legal workforce," said USCIS director L. Francis Cissna. "E-Verify.gov now allows users to

better understand and navigate through the employment verification process."

E-Verify is a free, easy-to-use internet-based system. Employers can access E-Verify anytime, anywhere directly from a web browser. Nearly all employees are confirmed as work-authorized instantly or within 24 hours. The system, which has nearly 800,000 enrolled employers, compares information from an employee's Form I-9 to records available to the Department of Homeland Security and the

Social Security Administration to verify authorization to work in the U.S.

On April 18, 2017, President Trump signed the Buy American and Hire American executive order to help reduce illegal immigration and preserve jobs for U.S. workers. To support these objectives, USCIS encourages all U.S. employers to verify all new hires through E-Verify.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis and @EVerify), YouTube (/uscis), Facebook (/uscis), and Instagram (@USCIS). (USCIS)

CARE donates carpentry tools to NMTI



The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Construction Trades Program recently received a sizeable donation of tools from CARE CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute's Construction Trades Program recently received a sizeable donation of tools.

The large load of carpentry tools, along with two used pickup trucks, were donated by CARE CNMI and was received earlier this week.

The carpentry tools were used by Mennonite Disaster Service, which is composed of volunteers from the U.S. mainland who came in as part of the post-Typhoon Soudelor recovery efforts and are now transitioning back home.

CARE's donation is welcome news to NMTI as it helps the Construction Trades Program in its effort at providing trainees with equipment students need to succeed in their career endeavors.

With its learning-by-doing approach, NMTI's Construction Trades Program is a bit more expensive to run. Running trades classes is somewhat different from a regular academic standpoint in that it is a bit more expensive to conduct, according to Trades chair Brian Torres.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres was thankful for the donation.

"We are truly blessed to have groups that care about the wellbeing of our community. CARE's contribution is testament that there are many of our people out there that truly believe that we are an institution worth investing in. My colleagues cannot thank CARE enough as their donation helps alleviate some of the current need for tools.

McPhetres wished the Mennonites farewell and thanked them for coming to the CNMI's aid during a time of mass devastation.

CARE director Maxine Laszlo is excited that the tools will ultimately help us build a larger local workforce of construction laborers.

"The major challenge most families faced after Soudelor was finding an affordable, reliable contractor to do repairs on their homes. Even families who had funds and wanted to rebuild their homes did not have access to labor or often experienced contractor fraud. By continuing to invest in training our local workforce, we will be better prepared as a community to respond to our needs after disaster," she said. (PR)

Rota officials honor Carmen Toves

Rota municipal officials recently expressed their condolences over the recent passing of Rota resident Carmen Matagolia Toves, through a joint municipal resolution dated April 13, 2018.

The resolution was presented to Toves' oldest son, Barrie Toves.

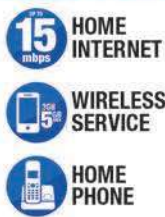
Carmen Toves, wife of the

late Albert Songao Toves, Jr., passed away on March 4, 2018.

The resolution was adopted and passed by Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and members of the 16th Rota Municipal Council, council chair Anthony DLC, Barcinas, council vice chair Kary M. Ramos, and council secretary Ivan T. Mereb. (PR)

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Manalang, Guzman are named Marianas' Next Top Models

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Unity Lion's Club named its first pair of Marianas Next Top Model last Sunday in a pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan that also saw the contestants model trash-wear.

Mazie Anne Manalang, 18, and Yads Guzman, 17, were

named 2018's Marianas Next Top Models, with Manalang dominating the women's division and Guzman ruling the male division.

Manalang's and Guzman's Trash-to-Class outfits were responsible for a huge chunk of their overall score.

Manalang's hand-made, mermaid cut, barley sack gown and Guzman's deco-

rative trash bag jacket won them both the Best in Trash Wear award.

According to Manalang, she designed her dress but creating it was the struggle. Her friends and family banded together and helped her bring her idea to life.

During pageant night, award were also given out for Environmental Top Model, Look of the Year, Face of the Year, Best in

Casual Wear, Mr. and Ms. Talent, and Mr. and Ms. Congeniality, Star of the Night, Mr. and Ms. Charity, Mr. and Ms. Photogenic, and Mr. and Ms. Darling of the Press.

The Environmental Top Model award went to Francis Matthew Macaspac and Morzina Khan. The Look of the Year award was given to Ezekiel Quiroz and Janine Deleon Guerrero.

The Face of the Year award

was also awarded to Macaspac and Sue Ann Huevos.

Jegier Labao and Huevos were voted Best in Casual Wear for their unique style and presentation of their outfit.

Joshua Magno and Deleon Guerrero dominated the talent portion of the pageant.

Mr. and Ms. Congeniality were Neil Camay and Khan for their sportsmanship and for being the friendliest.

The Star of Night award was given to Macaspac and Deleon Guerrero.

The Charity award was given to Tristan Armado and Deleon Guerrero for selling the most number of tickets.

Trisha Rivera and Quiroz were named Mr. and Ms. Photogenic.

The Darling of the Press award was given to Guzman and Naveen Lucenara.

ROTA

From Page 1

to veto H.B. 20-102, HD1, SS1, CCS1, citing several concerns, including his belief that Rota was "unfairly excluded" from the bill.

The measure appropriates \$13 million to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation and the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.

The Senate accepted the conference committee substitute of H.B. 20-102 in a session last week with a vote of 5-2. Manglona stormed out of the session prior to voting, while Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) was absent. Sens. Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) and Teresita Santos (R-Rota) both rejected the conference committee substitute bill.

H.B. 20-102 repeals 4 CMC § 1508 (a) and (b)—measures that mandate Finance to set aside certain percentages of poker machine revenues and annual license renewal fees in a trust account in the general fund known as the Human Resources Development Trust Fund and the Retirement Fund.

A previous governor's communication had recommended the repeal of the measure, citing the fact that it has been

suspended continuously for over a decade.

The findings section of H.B. 20-102 now state:

"The Legislature finds that [Torres] has identified in this improving economy the much needed resources for those specific entities and found no more need to suspend such funds."

However, according to Manglona's letter, the funds freed up by repealing the measure belong to the general fund.

"As such, it should not be diverted to the respective legislative delegation for eventual re-distribution as if they were derived from local funds," he said. H.B. 20-102 also included language to reimburse both the Saipan and Tinian delegations for funds previously accumulated due to Public Law 7-31, which was a Commonwealth expenditure.

P.L. 7-31 raised the base salary of government employees back in the early 1990s without first identifying if the government had adequate funding resources, pushing both delegations to pay for the government obligation. H.B. 20-102 reimburses both delegations for the balances.

"This re-appropriation measure to refund local appropriation expenditure, especially one that was made many years ago is very questionable. This is tantamount to borrowing

money for government operations expenditure other than for Capital Improvement Projects, which is prohibited by Article X, Section 4 of the Commonwealth Constitution," Manglona said, reiterating that P.L. 7-31 is a Commonwealth obligation.

Rota was not given a single penny

Manglona emphasized in his letter that this was the first time Rota was excluded from an appropriation measure.

"Rota was unfairly excluded and not given a single penny in the appropriation measure," he said.

The bicameral conference committee agreed to omit a provision that provides the Rota Legislative Delegation with \$500,000. According to Manglona, the money would be used for marketing and tourism related purposes pertaining to Rota.

The House conferees were led by chair Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) with Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) and author Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" Attao (Ind-Saipan). The Senate conferees were led by Sen. Justo Quitugua (Ind-Saipan) with Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Steve Mesngon (R-Rota) as members.

"The amount of \$500,000,

out of the total \$13 million, is all that we were requesting for a Tourism Enhancement Program. This would have gone a long way in augmenting Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing efforts to promote Rota as a tourist destination," he said, adding that Rota, despite being small, has "so much history and beauty to offer."

Manglona added that since Star Marianas Airlines no longer offers their Guam-Rota flights, paired with the recent news of United Airlines severing ties with Cape Air, affecting Guam-Rota and Saipan-Rota flights, Rota now more than ever "needs a boost."

"With financial support, the tourism enhancement program may be able to explore new ways to promote Rota and bring visitors to the island," he said.

In a previous interview with *Saipan Tribune*, House conferee Sablan said appropriating the Rota delegation with \$500,000 was not in line with the intent of H.B. 20-102, which was to reimburse the Saipan and Tinian delegations retroactively for previous balances accumulated from P.L. 7-31.

The House in today's 9:30am session would either accept or reject the conference committee substitute bill. The Senate in their April 12, 2018, session accepted the substitute.

said in an interview that she would push for a review of S.B. 20-35.

"...We will work hard on this," said Igitol, adding that she has set for a committee meeting in early May to discuss the bill.

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) said in a separate interview that the reason why the House did not immediately review S.B. 20-35 was because they were trying to provide "due diligence."

"[We are just] making sure that what we are attempting to do is in accordance with the CNMI Constitution," said Demapan. When asked about the main concerns surrounding the bill, he said that several committee members had problems with some of the conditions of S.B. 20-35.

"These are the things that [we need to] make sure are discussed before any position [may be taken]," said the speaker.

all of a sudden, the growth we've had over the last couple of years is going to start to decline," she said, emphasizing that other destinations have an edge over the CNMI due to their newer facilities.

"Everyone would like to think that the CNMI is very special and so beautiful [compared to] anything else—personally I believe that—but we are not [the most] special and beautiful place on earth. There are others who are very much like us, and they are our competition," she said, adding that other destinations have convenient flight routes to serve them and their preferred tourist markets.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion pointed out that the CNMI needs to concentrate on working on what is already here.

"We need to concentrate first on what we have here right now and not get it too dilapidated and run down. It affects

our reputation as a destination internationally, so we need to take care of the properties we have right now," he said.

He added that following the expiry of Mariana Resort & Spa's lease in the next six days, Hyatt Regency Saipan's lease is next. He noted that the Hyatt lease would expire around December of 2021. It is the only internationally branded hotel in the CNMI.

"We are very concerned about [Hyatt]. It is the only international brand, so we need to maintain that brand here in the CNMI," he said.

"Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan follows after [Hyatt], I believe, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan's lease expires in 2026," said Concepcion, adding that PIC's lease is a combination of both private and public lands.

The bill is currently with the House Committee on Lands and Natural Resources.

Rep. Alice Igitol (R-Saipan)

OFFENDERS

From Page 1

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Jacqueline Rae Shepard said yesterday that Angel Palacios, 45; Crispin Taitano, 69; and Stephen Abright, 47, were all arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

Shepard said the task force has been doing compliance check operations every three months, to confirm the offenders' location, verify compliance, and obtain updated photos.

Shepard said the four-day operation that started last Tuesday, April 17, resulted in the successful location and verification of 30 sex offenders on Saipan, nine on Tinian,

and six on Rota.

The compliance check also resulted in the arrest of Palacios, Taitano, and Abright.

Shepard said Palacios was arrested last Tuesday at 3:45pm after task force officers found two marijuana plants in plain sight at his Dandan home.

Shepard said Taitano was arrested last Thursday at 2:35pm after officers found him in possession of 117 marijuana plants at his home in Songsong, Rota.

Later that afternoon, officers also arrested Abright after six marijuana plants were allegedly found growing in his Sinapalo, Rota residence.

Shepard said all marijuana plants discovered during the operation were seized and taken into evidence.

AUDIT

From Page 1

should be reflected to provide accurate financial statements. Without accurate asset records, a business' financial balance sheet will be incorrect.

Auditors of Burger, Comer, Magliari recommended that a regular count of the fixed assets must be performed and this should be in agreement with the records. However, BCM understands CUC's financial situation and stated that conducting cycle counts or when inventory is counted on a specified day per division/location to minimize overtime is satisfactory.

BCM also recommended for CUC to consider evaluating capital assets for impairments and recoverability of carrying values.

In his response to the audit in December last year, CUC chief financial officer Antonio B. Castro said that CUC agrees with the "fixed assets" findings and made it clear that CUC did a physical count of all fixed assets in June 2017.

"...Independent auditors are reviewing the fixed assets damaged by Typhoon Soudelor and reconciling the list with the purchases made to replace the damaged and condemned fixed assets and recommended to do another count of fixed assets for inclusion in the FY 2017 Audit of Financial Statements.

"CUC is currently evaluating

its capital assets for impairment due to damage, obsolescence and retired," he added.

Castro pointed out that CUC is currently expanding its Microsoft Dynamics GP software. "This will manage the assets that could track cost, depreciating and funding source for each asset...this will also include the ability to calculate for complete or partial retirement and depreciation cost for a single asset or group and will improve efficiency."

BCM's findings on CUC capital assets or "Equipment and Real Property Management stated that a physical count had not been conducted as of Sept. 30, 2016, and has no basis to determine if the carrying value of its capital assets is accurate. The auditors recommend that a physical inventory take place.

CUC agreed with the findings and made it clear that CUC conducted a physical count of all its fixed assets in June 2017.

Castro added that at present, CUC is reconciling the fixed asset count with the general ledger to ensure that correct valuation and depreciated costs are applied.

Other improvements that CUC is working on are ensuring that travel authorizations are in compliance with policies and procedures, CUC Human Resources Department shall document employees' status, and rates on employment contracts or notices of personnel action, and overtime forms are properly approved and signed.

HANMI

From Page 1


MVA support for Senate Bill 20-35, which Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced.

S.B. 20-35 would set the initial lease agreement of an establishment at 40 years, with an option to extend for an additional 15 years.

Current law allows 25 years for the initial lease agreement, with the option to extend for another 15 years—for a maximum of 40 years.

In a later interview, Cavanagh said that information collected from exit surveys showed that several tourists have noted that many CNMI rooms and facilities are outdated.

"Who would spend millions...of dollars when they only have a few years left to go? If we don't [pass S.B. 20-35] now, then these exit surveys are going to go viral and,



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16 schools participate in math competition

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen high schools took part in the annual CNMI Math Court competition last April 17 at Koblerville Elementary School that saw the formation of Team CNMI that will represent the Commonwealth at the national competition on May 17 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The 2018 Math Court competition winners who will comprise Team CNMI are Frederic Michael Guinto, Surui Huang, Junhee Lee, and Michael Lee from Saipan International School, Jushua Qiu of Marianas Baptist Academy and Kichang Jeoung of Agape Christian School.

The schools that competed in the high school division included Marianas Baptist Academy, Marianas High School, Saipan International



The 2018 Math Court high school winners that will represent CNMI in the national competition to be held on May 17 in Kansas City, Missouri, are seen here. From left: Michael Lee, Frederic Michael Guinto, Surui Huang, Jushua Qiu and Junhee Lee. Other mathletes seen here are the team's alternates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

School, Grace Christian Academy, and Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

In the K-3 division, the schools that participated were Saipan Community School, Green Meadow School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Mount Carmel School, Agape Christian School, Northern Marianas International School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Eucon, Oleai Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and Koblerville Elementary School.

According to Math Court administrator Vina Duenas, prior to the Math Court competition held last week, the CNMI was able to send four middle school students to Phoenix, Arizona, to compete in the Mathleague.org in March.

Mathleague.org is national middle school mathematics

competition. That competition brought together the top middle school mathletes from the U.S. to compete in four rounds.

"The students that participated were Silas Xu of Agape Christian School, Joanah Jimenez of Marianas Baptist Academy, and Christina Kim and Hua Yuan of Saipan International School. They all performed admirably and... Joanah Jimenez placed fifth in the 8th grade level and eight place overall and Silas Xu placed third in the 7th grade level," she added.

Registration for Micronesian forum closed

Registration for the 23rd Micronesia Islands Forum closed as of yesterday, April 23, 2018.

The number of registered participants for the event has officially reached maximum capacity for the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The interest from the community and region at large exceeded the number of seats available for the forum.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres encourages the community and those who were not able to register to watch the discussions online at marianas.edu/MIF2018.

Live streaming of the event is made possible by the Northern Marianas College. (PR)

Wanted man falls

Police arrested last Saturday night Vincent S. Camacho, a 32-year-old man wanted for assaulting a woman with a plastic chair and a cassette radio in As Perdido.

Camacho was served with an arrest warrant in Falapi last Saturday at 6:28pm on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, and interference with

a domestic violence report.

Camacho was taken yesterday for a bail hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, who imposed a \$25,000 cash bail on him.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 30 at 1:30pm. Assistant public defender Heather Zona was appointed as his counsel. Assistant attorney general Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. appeared

for the government.

Last Thursday, the Department of Public Safety issued a press release that sought the public's assistance for information on the whereabouts of Camacho.

A police officer responded to an assault and battery incident in Chalan Kanoa last April 15 at 11:54pm.

The officer met with a woman who claimed that her boyfriend, Camacho, beat her up and another person.

The officer learned that

there was a small gathering at the residence of Camacho's girlfriend in As Perdido. Camacho allegedly threw a can of beer at a woman's face, causing her to fall.

Camacho then began hitting the woman's head with a plastic chair and a cassette recorder. The report did not specify how Camacho is related to the woman.

Camacho's girlfriend tried to stop him, but instead he slammed his girlfriend on the floor.

A 15-year-old child of

Camacho's girlfriend also tried to stop Camacho from beating the woman. Camacho, however, also allegedly slammed the child to the floor.

Later, Camacho also tried to punch the woman's son, who tried to call the police. Camacho grabbed the phone from the child and threw it on the road. The phone shattered.

The woman suffered a 1.5-centimeter laceration on the head. She also had bruising and swelling on the right eye. (Ferdie de la Torre)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mariana avifauna presentation at AMP

The American Memorial Park will be hosting a Mariana Avifauna Conservation Program this Wednesday, April 25, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, with the aim to bring people together to aid the long-term survival of native birds.

The program was founded in 2006 and is run by Pacific Bird Conservation. PBC brings together zoo professionals from a number of institutions, government agencies and local islanders to counteract the decline of bird species that have been negatively affected by the invasive brown tree snake. This presentation will describe the past, present and future conservation efforts on behalf of these species. (PR)

Free seminar on STEP Program for small businesses

The CNMI Department of Commerce, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Development Authority, will be offering a free seminar focusing on the CNMI State Trade Expansion Program for small businesses that are

interested in expanding their market through export. The training will be held at CDA boardroom in San Jose, first floor, on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 from 9:30am to 11am. The CNMI STEP Program is a state-federal partnership, funded by a grant from the Small Business Administration. (PR)

Military training at FDM

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de

Medinilla on April 23-26, from 8am to 4pm. It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

KHS Def Jam and progress reports

Kagman High School will be hosting its annual Def Jam and 4th Quarter Progress Report this Thursday, April 26. Progress reports will be released from 4pm to 6pm and

Def Jam will occur from 6pm to 8:30pm in the cafeteria.

For parents and guardians living in the northern villages, KHS will also be holding a progress report on Friday, April 27, from 4pm to 6pm at the Natibu Sports Association, next to Tanapag Middle School.

Please call the school at 237-3189 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

National Park Week at the AMP

The American Memorial Park is celebrating National Park Week and is inviting the public. For those who want to know more about national parks across the United States, join park rangers throughout the week to view featured park films and discover our amazing national treasures. For special film showings:

Tuesday, April 24:

■ 3:30pm: *The Tuskegee Airmen: Sacrifice and Triumph*, Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site

■ 4:10pm: *Shark Safety*, Cape Cod National Seashore

■ 4:20pm: *Water Power*, Paterson Great Falls National

Historic Park

Wednesday, April 25:

■ 3:30pm: *Yellowstone National Park*

■ 4pm: *Hidden Worlds: Carlsbad Caverns National Park*

Thursday, April 26:

■ 3:30pm: *A Restless Giant: The Ever-changing Nature of Mount Rainier*, Mount Rainier National Park

■ 4pm: *The True Heart of Winter*, Denali National Park and Preserve

Friday, April 27:

■ 3:30pm: *Edgar Allan Poe*, Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site

■ 4pm: *Alexander Hamilton Statue Restoration 2012*, Paterson Great Falls National Historic Park

Saturday, April 28:

■ 3:30pm: *Homefront Heroes*, Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park

■ 4pm: *Paul Laurence Dunbar*, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park (NPS)

SSHS parent-teacher conferences

Saipan Southern High

School will have its fourth quarter mid-progress parent-teacher conferences on April 27, 2018, from 3pm to 5pm on campus. (PR)

KagES parent-teacher conferences

Kagman Elementary School will have its fourth quarter mid-progress parent-teacher conference on Thursday, April 26, from 3pm to 6pm on campus. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to learn about your child's academic performance, and if she or he will need to attend the intensive summer school program. Parents who attend the children's parent-teacher conferences three or more times during the school year will be recognized with medals and certificates at the end of the school year. For more information, call KagES at 237-3146. (PR)

SCS art show and writers showcase

The Saipan Community School invites the public to its SCS Annual Art Show and Young Writers Showcase on Friday, April 27, at 6pm in the

SCS chapel. Student pieces for display range in complexity from Kindergarten through 8th grade. The SCS Young Writers Workshop will be displaying written work from Kindergarten all the way through the 8th grade. To learn more about SCS, contact principal Amanda Allen Dunn, via email at principal@saipancommunityschool.com, call 234-6687, or visit the school on Beach Road in Susupe. (PR)

OES registration information

The Oleai Elementary School will be accepting registration for new enrollees for school year 2018-2019:

■ Kindergarten: starting on April 16, 2018

■ 1st to 5th Grade: June 11, 2018

Students entering Kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30.

Registration forms are available at our main office. Documents can be submitted to the office on Mondays-Fridays between 1pm and 4:30pm. For more information or inquiry call our main office at 664-3942. (PR)

Rota's Teteto named best beach at Japan dive fair

Teteto Beach on the island of Rota in the Marianas was selected as the No. 1 Reader's Choice Best Beach at Dive and Travel Awards of the annual Marine Diving Fair in Japan on April 6-8, 2018.

In addition, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota combined won fourth place Reader's Choice Best Diving Area, Overseas; Blue Palms Dive Service Rota won second place, Reader's Choice Favorite Dive Operator, Overseas; and Megumi Takaku of Blue Palms won second place

Reader's Choice Favorite Dive Guide, Overseas.

"Rota is a jewel that the whole world deserves to know about, and that is a goal the Marianas Visitors Authority has been working toward with more promotions, more media and travel agent [familiarization] tours, and more events, like this month's Rota Coffee Marathon," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA welcomes the opportunity to work with the municipality to strategize how their



The Marianas Visitors Authority meets with divers and beach enthusiasts at the Marine Diving Fair on April 7, 2018, in Tokyo, Japan. The fair had over 50,000 attendees. **MVA**

allocated funding can be applied to keep Rota accessible for visitors through charter flight incentives or other promotional initiatives. We must keep Rota open."

Diving opportunities on Rota and throughout the Marianas were touted by the MVA to over 50,000 attendees at the fair, which is Japan's leading consumer diving show, targeting consumers and trade representatives in Japan and other Asian countries.

The MVA hosted an information booth at the event,

held at Ikebukuro Sunshine City in Tokyo.

The MVA showed the new movie, *Diving in The Marianas*, distributed new diving leaflets, new island maps, and other material; and answered questions from attendees at the show, which attracted 30 countries and territories.

In cooperation with MVA staff, the event was also attended by Miyuki Ishihara of Super Fish Diving Saipan and Hiroshi Yamamoto of Rota Scuba Center RUBIN, members of the Northern



Megumi Takaku of Blue Palms Dive Service Rota registers attendees at Marine Diving Fair on April 7, 2018, in Tokyo, Japan. Participants had the opportunity to win free diving coupons offered by Northern Marianas Diving Operators. **MVA**



Megumi Takaku of Blue Palms Dive Service Rota accepts the second place Reader's Choice Favorite Dive Guide, Overseas, on April 6, 2018, at Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan. Blue Palms also was also awarded second place Reader's Choice Favorite Dive Operator. Marine Diving Fair is attended annually by the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote diving in the Marianas. **MVA**

Marianas Diving Operations Association.

A number of dive sites are among the "Marianas 30 Treasures" now being promoted internationally by the MVA, including Treasure No. 1 Grotto, No. 2 Managaha Island, No. 8 Obyan Beach, and No. 22 Rota Hole. **(MVA)**



Kyoko Okabe, sales manager of the Marianas Visitors Authority's Japan office, accepts the award for No. 1 Reader's Choice Best Beach given to Teteto Beach, Rota, on April 6, 2018, at Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan. **MVA**

GAIN to hold 'Strut Your Mutt' dog adoption show

Guam Animals in Need, or GAIN, will hold its first "Strut Your Mutt" Doggy Adoption Show at the Ypao Park amphitheater this Saturday, April 28, 2018, from 1pm to 5pm.

The event will feature adoptable pets, food trucks, entertainment for the whole family, and two temporary dog parks. Entrance is free, and all are welcome to attend and bring their own dogs to socialize.

The event will feature musical entertainment from the 79ers, a magic show from Guam's Ryan Anderson, the highly anticipated Adoption

Show with music, Tito's vodka cocktails for libation, "Cruise for a Cause" test drives from Triple J Guam, and more!

Fundorte will offer face-painting, balloon art, and henna; Rendezvooth will have a photo booth for owners and pooches to photograph their "Strut Your Mutt" memories; and our other vendors—Woof Woof Treats, Harper Valley Kennels, Autonomous Inc., Fetch, Happy Pooch Groom and Board and Canvas by Fawn—will provide doggie services and products for your fluffy canine companions.

Attendees will also be able to purchase delicious food.

"We encourage everyone to come out, and bring your dogs to socialize and have fun," said Ana Babauta, member of the GAIN board of directors and lead organizer for the event. "We're excited to get our shelter and foster pets out into the community and we look forward to finding many new homes for them this Saturday."

Founded in 1989, GAIN is a non-profit animal welfare organization that operates the island's only animal shelter. **(PR)**

UOG professor publishes *tanka* poetry book

Dr. Yukiko Inoue-Smith, a professor of educational psychology and research at the University of Guam School of Education, has released a new poetry book, *The Inescapable Seasons of Life – Expressing the Modern Soul in an Ancient Poetic Style*.

The book, written in a classic Japanese poetry form called *tanka*, is published by JustFiction Edition.

Compared to *haiku*, Japan's oldest poetry genre called "tanka" (or "waka" traditionally) is not so familiar with people in the United States or rest of the world. In recent decades, however, *tanka* is becoming increasingly popu-

lar among Western readers, presumably because they recognize that this poetic style provides an ideal format and length for expressing emotions.



Inoue-Smith

Tanka poems written in Japanese are tiny verses of 31 syllables in one straight line. But, in English and other languages, it is often written using five lines. For an English language *tanka*, requirements are not so strict. The challenge is how to use a few words effectively: exactness and concrete image are

essential elements of composing *tanka*. More than in *haiku*, *tanka* requires a sense of verbal rhythm and musical flow. Finally, *tanka* conveys its meaning or a feeling by implication, in symbols, or by allusion. This is *yojo*—the soul of *tanka*.

Inoue-Smith, a professor of educational psychology at the University of Guam, has been extensively involved in work with *tanka*. Many of her *tanka* poems have received awards. Yukiko has been contributing her *tanka* poems to a local newspaper since 2011. Her *tanka* books recently published include *The Shape of Love* and *Do Cats Dream?* **(PR)**

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Marianas Next Top Model

Photos by Kimberly A. Bautista



Candidate Janine Deleon Guerrero showcases her Trash-to-Class outfit during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Candidate Trisha Rivera shows off her Trash-to-Class outfit during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Marianas High School's Rhythm N' Harmony performs during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Candidate Morzina Khan walks the runway in her casual wear during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Candidate Morzina Khan flaunts her Trash-to-Class outfit during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Neil Camay flaunts his Trash-to-Class outfit during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Yads Guzman is named Mr. Marianas Next Top Model during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Male and female candidates showcase their casual outfits during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Male contestants show off in their casual outfits during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



Mazie Anne Manalang and Yads Guzman are named Ms. and Mr. Marianas Next Top Model during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.



The top four male and female contestants pose for a photo during the 2018 Marianas Next Top Model pageant at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last Sunday.

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

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EDITORIAL

Congress grilled Facebook, but now it needs to act

Congressional lawmakers tried to put on a good show while grilling Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg about the misappropriation of detailed personal data from as many as 87 million users by Cambridge Analytica, the political consulting firm linked to the Trump campaign.

But after 10 hours of testimony by Zuckerberg spread over two days last week, it seemed clear that many graying members of Congress are unprepared to regulate Facebook—or any other social-media or data-driven companies—even if they wanted to.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R., S.C.), who is 62, asked Zuckerberg if Twitter was “the same as what you do,” while Sen. Orrin Hatch (R., Utah), who is 84, asked how Facebook made money.

Zuckerberg, 33, said, “Senator, we run ads.”

As lawmakers struggled to understand how Facebook works, the social-media giant’s share price increased, as investors quickly understood the hearings were likely to result in what Shakespeare described as “sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

Zuckerberg apologized for the data breach, just as he has done repeatedly over the years for previous screw-ups. He also dodged lawmakers’ questions nearly two dozen times. Meanwhile, the senators were roasted on Twitter.

But allowing Facebook to resume business as usual is not an option. With more than two billion users around the world, Facebook wields enormous power through the vast amount of private data it collects.

During the hearing, Zuckerberg said some regulation was “inevitable,” but he did not commit to any sweeping privacy changes. Instead, Zuckerberg said it was important to get the “right regulation.” Translation: Facebook lobbyists may be willing to help clueless lawmakers craft watered-down regulations.

But even as Zuckerberg promised that Facebook would do a better job of protecting users’ privacy, the company was actively fighting privacy measures in California and Illinois.

In February, Facebook – along with Comcast, Google, Verizon, and AT&T—together contributed more than \$1 million to a political action committee set up to oppose a ballot measure in California called the Consumer Right to Privacy Act of 2018. If approved, the measure would allow Californians to prohibit companies from selling or sharing their personal data. Shortly after Zuckerberg finished testifying in Washington, Facebook said it would no longer contribute to the PAC.

Last fall, Facebook began bulking up its army of roughly 40 lobbyists in Washington after revelations that Russians exploited its network to help elect President Trump. The social-media behemoth spent \$11.5 million on lobbying last year, a 32 percent increase from 2016.

That lobbying offensive is sure to shape any efforts to protect users. Not to mention that the Republican-controlled Congress is more focused on stripping away many regula-

See CONGRESS on Next Page

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Book puts Comey down in the dirt with Trump

WASHINGTON—I bought fired FBI director James Comey’s book, “A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership,” so you don’t have to buy it. I read it so you don’t have to read it.

It’s not a bad read, especially if you like to know details of what goes on behind the headlines and are interested in how a bullied 12-year-old went on to run the world’s most important law enforcement machine.

But I wish Comey had not written it, not yet.

The book makes special counsel Robert Mueller’s job investigating Russian interference in our politics more difficult. Comey, after all, will be a witness in any legal proceeding against Trump for possible obstruction of justice.

It will give Donald Trump more ammunition for his false claims that the Russia investigation is a “witch hunt.”

It puts Comey down in the dirt in hand-to-hand combat with Trump.

It’s easy to see why Comey yearned to write his account of his awkward encounters with Trump, who demanded personal loyalty from someone with a job that must be independent.

Trump went from promising Comey that after four years in the job, he (Comey) would keep his 10-year post to firing him without notice and, most recently, calling Comey a “slime ball.” Yeah. So dignified.

But Comey admittedly suffers from an annoying penchant for self-righteousness. (“I know I can be wrong even when I am certain I am right.”) Yes, he won’t admit he acted politically in announcing an investigation of Hillary Clinton just before the 2016 election.

In Comey’s words, “I can be stubborn, prideful, overconfident and driven by ego,” which, in a strange juxtaposition, is remarkably like the current president.

Comey, however, is not a liar. Trump is. Comey is overwhelmed with respect and love for the FBI and its traditions. Trump is not. Comey believes in public service. Trump believes in Trump.

In this book, Comey decided to play by Trump’s rules and ends up looking slightly pathetic. He refers to the size of Trump’s hands, Trump’s overlong tie, his orange complexion, the white half-moons under the eyes, inability to laugh and bright hair, pondering how long it must take each morning to maneuver into a remarkable helmet.

He refers to the dossier prepared by an ex-British spy, which alleges Trump cavorted with prostitutes in a Russian hotel room in an effort to defile a bed where former President Barack Obama

By ANN MCFEATTERS

Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.



once slept. Comey says he does not know whether the incident is true or not.

Noting he’s been the subject of 50 Trump tweets, Comey told “The Today Show,” “I’m like a breakup (Trump) can’t get over.”

One wishes Comey would follow Michelle Obama’s mantra, “When they go low, we go high.”

Comey wrote the book to try to get even; he compares Trump to a mob boss. But Comey also wanted to proclaim: “As a leadership principle, if leaders don’t tell the truth or won’t hear the truth from others, they cannot make good decisions, they cannot improve themselves and they cannot inspire trust among those who follow them.”

“Who am I to tell you about ethical leadership?” Comey asks rhetorically. After this book, well, yes.

Comey’s stores of working for Rudy Giuliani, prosecuting Martha Stewart for insider trading and failing to prevent illegal surveillance and torture of terrorism suspects are interesting if self-serving. He talks about not growing tall (6-foot-8) until after high school and being bullied as a child and about a known gun-wielding rapist ransacking his house when he and his brothers were young.

But given this time and this atmosphere, it is Comey’s duels with Trump that are supposed to rivet our attention. And it is the “I-know-you-are-but-what-am-I” childish nature of the give-and-take when the issues are serious that is disturbing.

We are perplexed by Comey’s visible effort to be bipartisan and take the high road while writing: “Evil has an ordinary face. It laughs, it cries, it deflects, it rationalizes, it makes great pasta.”

Comey concludes that the Trump era, with his disdain for civility, truth, tradition, dignity and honor, will be followed by a new appeal to “traditional American values,” similar to new growth after a forest fire.

Comey has made himself an indisputable part of the Trump story. Somehow this book diminishes us.

Why you should be wary when driving on 4/20

By ROBERT GORDON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Glorifying marijuana use is now a staple across pop culture, music and Hollywood, where getting high is celebrated with nary a mention of the public safety risks involved. But if you smoke, vape, or enjoy edibles and get behind the wheel of a car while impaired, not only are you breaking the law, you are putting your life and the lives of others on the road in great danger.

Drivers should be especially cautious this Friday, April 20 – otherwise known as National Weed Day. Alarming, a new Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI) survey found that more than two thirds of Americans (68 percent) did not think there was any increased driving risk on National Weed Day.

But new research published in JAMA Internal Medicine revealed that traffic fatalities were 12 percent more likely on 4/20 after 4:20 p.m. (the time the smoking celebration traditionally begins) than on the same day one week before or one week after. And no matter what time of the year, marijuana users are 25 percent more likely to be involved in a crash than drivers with no evidence of pot use.

Marijuana use is most prevalent among young adults aged 18-

25 with more than 11 million in the age bracket using the drug in 2015. Yet, despite the rapidly growing drug use by teens and young adults, many parents are not taking the dangers seriously. PCI’s survey found more than 50 percent of parents with teenagers at home said they have not spoken to their children about the dangers of driving high in the days leading up to April 20.

But according to JAMA’s study, fatal crashes on National Weed Day are 38 percent more likely for drivers under 21 years old – almost the same risk as the spike in car crash deaths on Super Bowl Sunday, which is traditionally a day of increased alcohol intake.

It is clear that far too many Americans fail to truly understand just how dangerous driving high can be, despite evidence of an increase in cannabis-related driving accidents and fatalities in states that have liberalized marijuana laws. Research shows that marijuana use impairs psychomotor skills, leads to slower reaction times and lane tracking difficulties.

States and federal agencies are still developing standards to determine what level of marijuana consumption is unsafe and how long people need to wait after consuming marijuana before it is safe to resume driving. PCI’s survey found that 20 percent of Americans say they have driven a car under the influence of marijuana, with 81 percent of those who have driven under the influence of marijuana admitting they drove either immediately

or within two hours of using the drug.

That is a recipe for disaster and underscores the need for states liberalizing their marijuana laws to start with appropriate education, safety, and enforcement standards before rolling the dice on our roadways.

What’s needed now is a sustained public awareness campaign that better educates the public about the dangers of driving high, while states and federal agencies continue to invest in, and research, the most effective ways to test for drugged driving as is done with roadside alcohol tests. Police officers need to be equipped with the tools and training to successfully test, identify, and enforce against drugged driving impairment.

And it doesn’t matter what you see in the movies, marijuana use can be deadly if you choose to get behind the wheel of a car.

Don’t be a statistic and be especially careful on the roads this Friday.

Robert Gordon is the senior vice president, policy development and research for Property Casualty Insurers Association of America (PCI). Prior to joining PCI in August 2008, Gordon was the parliamentarian, senior counsel and ethics compliance officer for the Committee on Financial Services in the U.S. House of Representatives.

A trilogy of Trump Twitter tales

Deconstructing Drumpf’s Delusions of Grandeur

A delusion of grandeur is the fixed, false belief that one possesses superior qualities such as genius, fame, omnipotence, or wealth; also the false belief in one’s own superiority, greatness, or intelligence. Four main characteristics are: 1. person believes it to be true – when existing norm and other people know it to be untrue. THINK ABOUT the INAUGURATION CROWD PHOTOS.

2. person with delusion will not listen to any other points of view and will not consider change when evidence challenges the delusion. THINK OF the THREE GENERALS DAILY DILEMMA.

3. the content of the delusion is impossible, implausible. THINK the MEXICAN WALL, NEED FOR & WHO WILL PAY.

4. the delusion impacts the person’s daily life. THINK, “Only I can do it.” AFTER ONE YEAR LACKING NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS TO AMBASSADOR STATIONS IN MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING SO. KOREA.

Other characteristics: people with delusions of grandeur think they have a special ability or talent. THINK “I’M SMART. a STABLE GENIUS.” Sometimes they have a secret connection, the unknown. THINK OF HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH, AFFINITY FOR PUTIN. They relish being a celebrity. THINK the AXIOS BUS TAPE.

“WHEN YOU’RE A STAR, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.”

Trump Tweet Tales Some Tomes and Poems

The lying media on fake news Friday has released some titles of future works we can’t wait to read.

Trumpty Dumpty - A Fool Falls Off Imaginary Wall
Twaddling Twit And What Became Of It
Donald and Daniels In the Lion’s Den
(a Fiblical Fable and Farcical Time Table)
45 Ways To Lose Respect and A Country
King of Bling and The Ruble Road To Riches
Campaign Chase: My Race From White Tower To WH
V. Putin ‘Cultivating Assisting and Supporting’ DJT
Believe Me Believe Me I Need Allies After the Insults
Mueller Mulls It Over Grand Juries Not Over
Nuclear Nightmares - My Button Is Bigger Than Yours
Denial With A Smile All the While No Taxes On File
Golf Balls In the Rough Who Thought It Would Be Tough
On the Course Electric Cars Off the Course Porn Stars

Congressional Movement or Lack Thereof

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY ‘PEPE BATBON’
CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey “Pepe Batbon” Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Dear constipated Congress the nation wants to see movement in part your status quo lack of action shows no improvement everyone takes vacations DJT’s favorite is playing golf forget about how much it costs for those flights to Florida don’t tell the whistleblower about the boy who cried wolf concentrate on Russian relevant subpoenas by Mueller Sen. McConnell Speaker Ryan there’s an upcoming election which seems to be posing several problems for the GOP with Democrats on the upswing and a broad based selection a lot of women are running which might not be good for DT he’s having KAG!! 2020 campaign rallies all over the states but is having trouble showing how he has made them great new laws can come into being despite his constant tweets laws passed despite all those ‘believe me’ ‘no collusion’ repeats

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trail of bad faith

I do not oppose the casino itself and I am sure some people agree with me that we should continue to support the casino and finish the casino building project that is ongoing. It is also important to note that we want the casino to continue generating revenues so that our local economy continues to grow.

I strongly condemn those lawmakers and top leaders that are driven with dishonesty, corruption, and serve only special interests and enrich themselves, leaving our people struggling to find ways to feed their families. Our economy is picking up well so far, as they say, but it doesn’t do anything good to our people with low income. The worst part is the 80-percent salary increase for lawmakers and other top officials. This is a slap in the face to our working people in CNMI.

The trail of bad faith begins as follows:

1. In the year 2013 if you recall, a few selected Saipan lawmakers went on a casino fact-finding trip, as they called it, to Hong Kong and Macau.
2. After the trip, the same lawmakers returned to Saipan and took upon themselves to pass the casino bill without a public hearing, which is against the Open Government Act. This was the year 2014.
3. That same year, 2014, International Imperial Pacific was awarded an exclusive license to operate a casino. On July 11, 2014, Gov. Inos, signed into law Public Law 18-56, which authorized the Commonwealth Lottery Commission to issue an exclusive casino license on Saipan “for a period of 25 consecutive years with an option to extend the term for 15 additional years” for a total of 40 years. The casino was opened on July 6, 2017, at the Imperial Pacific International hotel and casino resort in Garapan, even though the construction of the hotel is still not completed to this date.
4. A Bloomberg news article details how the Torres brothers benefited from a land deal they allegedly bought from a local landowner at very low price of \$180,000 and sold for \$660,000.
5. The FBI made a raid on illegal Chinese workers. The FBI raided the office in Garapan of MCC International on April 5, 2017. MCC is a subcontractor for Imperial Pacific International. The raid was conducted pursuant to a search warrant obtained by the FBI.
- On April 5, 2017, the FBI arrested two officials of Beilida New Materials System Engineering Co., which is the subcontractor of the Imperial Pacific International hotel and casino. The officials were arrested for employing aliens illegally, bringing aliens into the CNMI illegally, and harboring aliens illegally.
6. The Bloomberg article alleged “corruption” in the Saipan casino.
7. The head of the CNMI Department of Labor was fired by

the governor.

8. One lawmaker (who is one of the participant on a casino fact-finding trip) is seen wearing 22-karat gold Rolex watch. In comparison, the salary of a lawmaker is around \$39,300 and discretionary funds is \$90,000 annually. The price tag for 22-karat gold Rolex is around \$20,000 and up.

Money and corruption are running our land to benefit a few crooked politicians who have betrayed our own people of the CNMI, pocketing the profits and treating us like sheep! We’re tired of hearing promises that we know they’ll never keep.

Do we, the people of CNMI, able to stand this trail of bad faith? Think about it for a moment. Get rid of those politicians that betrayed us. Protect your families and the future generations. Give them the dignity and respect. It doesn’t matter what party you’re in: independent, Democrats or Republicans. What matters is our lives and the future generations.

Our islands are beautiful as ever and this is our paradise. No one should ever conquer this small piece of land. This is our land from our ancestors and the land for future generations. Let’s continue to make our islands a better place to live for everyone and to raise our family in peace, harmony and embrace it.

Jack Muna
Koblerville, Saipan

CONGRESS

From Page 10

tions, ranging from the environment to the financial industry. In March, Congress scrapped online privacy rules imposed by the

Federal Communications Commission last year, a victory for telecommunications and cable giants such as AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon.

In contrast, the European Union is implementing data privacy regulations next month that will make it easier for users to approve or withhold use of their data. Zuckerberg said Facebook is

complying with the European rules and will extend those safeguards to its users around the world.

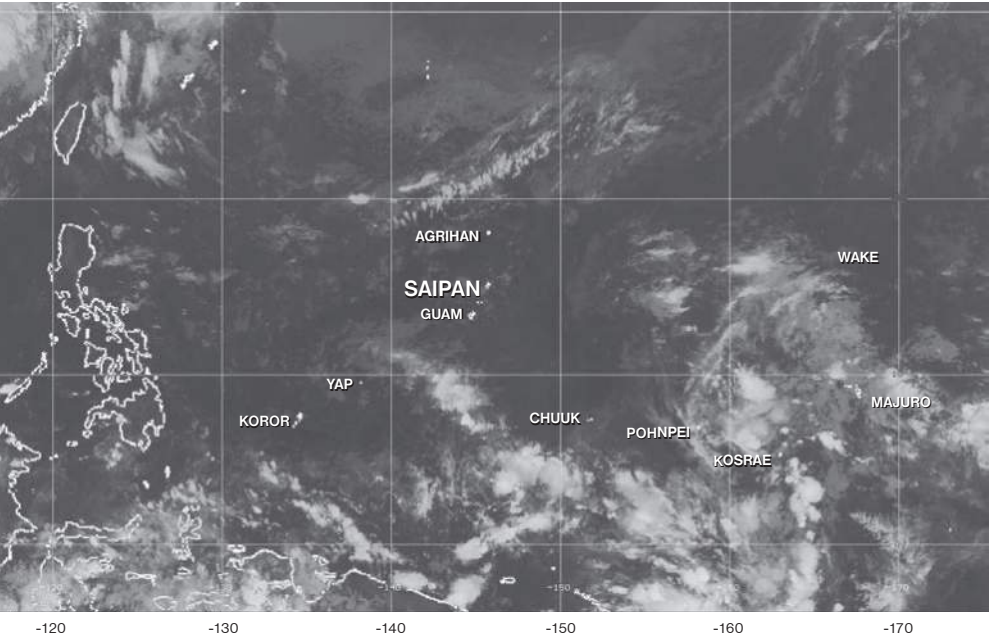
That should offer Facebook users some protection as Congress dawdles. But eventually America’s lawmakers must act.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:50 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The forecast remains unchanged over the next week. No organized systems are expected to affect the Marianas. Partly cloudy skies will become mostly cloudy by Thursday. Isolated showers and slightly diminishing winds are expected through the week. arine conditions will remain fairly benign over the next 5 days. Moderate to fresh winds will decrease slightly to mainly moderate, though occasional fresh winds are possible through the end of the week. A small north swell is expected to move into the region tonight and continue through midweek. This small swell will likely increase the rip tide risk to moderate for north facing reefs Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 54°	
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 52°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 72°	
Honolulu	Showers	81° / 72°	
London	Showers	61° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	68° / 52°	
Miami	Thunderstorm	82° / 70°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 51°	
Osaka	Rain	68° / 54°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°	
Busan	Sunny	66° / 48°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	75° / 55°	
Salem	Showers	72° / 54°	
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 48°	
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 45°	
Tokyo	Rain	72° / 59°	
Washington, DC	Rain	59° / 55°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:41 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84	
9:27 AM	LOW TIDE	1.11	
2:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55	
9:20 PM	LOW TIDE	0.02	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:31 AM	1:22 PM
Wednesday	-	2:21 AM	2:20 PM
Thursday	-	3:08 AM	3:16 PM
Friday	-	3:53 AM	4:10 PM
Saturday	-	4:36 AM	5:03 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017															
DEPARTURES								ARRIVALS							
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)								GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN							
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily					UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily				
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily					UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily				
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota					UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7				
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6					UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota				
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily					UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily				
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily					UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)								GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)							
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7					UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6				
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)								ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN							
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7					UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)								NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN							
DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily					DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)								BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN							
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7					7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4				
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5					7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7				
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)								SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN							
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily					7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily				
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1					OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7				
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7					TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily				
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7					OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6				
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily					LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7				
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily					7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)								SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN							
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7					3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7				
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)								HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN							
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1					JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4				
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4					JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7				
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)								GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN							
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6					3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5				
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)								BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN							
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7					MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6				
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)								MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN							
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN					UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM				
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM				
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM					OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN				
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM					OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN				
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM					PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM				
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM					UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM				
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM				
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR												
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)								HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN							
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4					OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN					OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN				
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN					HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7				
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7					U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7				
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6				
								UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in*

Business

Lobbyist tied to condo met with EPA chief, despite denials

WASHINGTON (AP)—Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt met in his office last year with a veteran Washington lobbyist tied to the bargain-priced condo where Pruitt was living.

Both Pruitt and lobbyist Steven Hart had previously denied Hart had conducted any recent business with EPA.

A spokesman for Hart confirmed Saturday that the lobbyist met with Pruitt at EPA headquarters in July 2017 to discuss efforts to preserve the Chesapeake Bay.

The admission about the meeting came after the lobbying firm Williams & Jensen filed a new disclosure report late Friday hours after Hart announced his early retirement as chairman. The firm's filing, first reported by The Hill, says Hart lobbied EPA during the first quarter of 2018 on behalf



AP
Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt, right, listens as President Donald Trump speaks during a cabinet meeting at the White House, Monday, April 9, 2018, in Washington.

arm. The calendar entry does not include a list of attendees. Pruitt's calendar does not disclose any 2018 meetings with Smithfield or its affiliates, the period covered by the report filed by Williams & Jensen.

Hart's spokesman, Ryan Williams, confirmed on Saturday that the lobbyist had met with Pruitt at EPA in July. In a statement, Hart disputed the legal filing made by his former firm.

"I assisted a friend who served on the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and this is inaccurately being tied to Smithfield Foods," Hart said. "I was not paid for this assistance and any suggestion that I lobbied for Smithfield Foods is inaccurate."

Lobbying disclosures show Williams & Jensen has represented Smithfield for more than a decade, with Hart intermittently reported as working directly on the pork-producer's behalf. The firm reported receiving \$70,000 from Smithfield in the first quarter of this year.

In a statement issued Saturday, Smithfield said it did not direct any contacts with EPA about the Chesapeake Bay.

Cultural differences may explain hurt feelings over evaluation

Q: About four months ago, I immigrated to Canada from Nigeria. I am still trying to understand the Canadian culture, but I think I'm adjusting pretty well. However, I am worried about my job.

Yesterday, my Canadian boss gave me an evaluation which seemed unfair. I think she started disliking me shortly after I arrived. This feels terrible because I have always been regarded highly, but that doesn't seem to be true here. How can I change my boss's thoughts toward me?

A: Cultural differences between Nigeria and Canada may play a role in your current dilemma. As described by researcher Erin Meyer in her book, "The Culture Map," many common business practices vary widely from country to country. Unfortunately, these differing customs create a host of misunderstandings.

For example, some business cultures (like the US and Canada) are more task-based—that is, the way you are regarded depends largely on how well you meet expectations in performing your job. Personal relationships are less important.

Other business cultures (like Nigeria and India) are more relationship-based—that is, the way you are perceived depends largely on developing positive relationships over time. Specific task accomplishments matter less. Performance critiques also vary, with some cultures being more explicit and others

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



more subtle.

When you started this job, your Canadian boss may have automatically corrected your work as she would with any new employee. From her viewpoint, giving direct, task-related feedback is a normal part of her management role. But from your own cultural perspective, this may have felt like unfair criticism and personal animosity.

Actually, your manager might be quite surprised by your hurt feelings. She would probably explain that she does like you and simply wants to help you succeed. So if you wish to "change her thoughts," begin by assuming that her comments aren't personal, then take the task-oriented approach of asking how you can improve your work.

Q: My last performance review was very discouraging. I work for a small engineering firm and recently earned a professional certification in my field. When I asked whether becoming certified would qualify me for a raise, the owner replied that certifications have no benefit for the company.

I then asked how I could increase my earning power.

He seemed to resent the question and said I am paid less because I work on low-profit jobs. However, those projects are assigned by management. Now I'm feeling depressed and demotivated. Do you have any advice?

A: If your grouchy owner discourages professional growth and limits you to undesirable projects, this certainly doesn't sound like a very rewarding place to work. To determine whether there's any hope for change, consider having one more conversation with a slightly different focus.

Instead of debating certification or compensation, ask what skills you might acquire that would be useful for the business. Explore the requirements for higher-level projects and see how you can qualify for those assignments. If this discussion proves to be productive, draft a plan for enhancing your abilities and expanding your scope.

But if you seem destined to be stuck in a restricted role, perhaps it's time to explore other options. When short-sighted managers disregard career concerns, increased turnover is the price they pay.

of Smithfield Foods.

The world's largest pork producer, Smithfield has been involved with efforts to clean up the bay since EPA fined the company \$12.6 million in 1997 for illegally dumping hog waste into a tributary.

EPA's press office did not respond to questions about Pruitt's meeting with Hart.

Pruitt's connections to the prominent lobbyist have been under intense scrutiny since last month, when media reports first revealed that the EPA chief had rented a luxury Capitol Hill condo from a cor-

poration co-owned by Hart's wife for just \$50 a night. Pruitt's daughter, then a White House summer intern, also stayed at the condo.

On Pruitt's 2017 condo lease, a copy of which was reviewed by AP, Steven Hart's name was originally typed in as "landlord" but was scratched out. The name of his wife, health care lobbyist Vicki Hart, was scribbled in.

Pruitt's public calendar shows he met at EPA headquarters on July 11 with the Smithfield Foundation, the pork-producer's philanthropic

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Shanghai gets automated bank with VR, robots, face scanning

SHANGHAI (AP)—Missed paying dues on your Communist Party membership? There's a bank for that—and it's fully automated. A bank in Shanghai has opened an automated branch equipped with face-scanning software, a virtual reality room and talking robots. The outlet opened by Beijing-based China Construction Bank in Shanghai's Huangpu district last week has been dubbed China's first "unmanned bank." State-owned China Construction Bank says it's meant to make banking more convenient and efficient. Analysts are skeptical, saying it's a gimmick that does little to automate banking beyond the usual ATM and online banking services. The bank is attracting throngs of curious observers with its cutting-edge equipment. China's traditional banks are under pressure from internet competitors and mobile payment applications that enable users to pay for goods using smartphones.

Russia adds Google IPs to registry of banned sites

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's communications watchdog agency says it is adding some Google IP addresses to the state register of banned sites, as a dispute over a banned messaging app intensifies. Russia has ordered the popular Telegram messaging app to shut down because it won't share its encryption key with intelligence agencies. Communications watchdog Roskom-

nadzor then blocked 18 networks that are used by Amazon and Google and host sites it believe Telegram is using to circumvent the ban. That move blocked access to millions of sites, including many Russian businesses. On Sunday, Roskomnadzor raised the stakes by announcing it had added an unspecified number of Google IP address used by Telegram to the register of banned sites. Google has long ignored a Roskomnadzor demand to store personal data on Russian servers.

UK calls on social media firms to better protect children

LONDON (AP)—Britain's health secretary says the government will introduce new laws targeting online social media companies if they don't do more to protect children. In a strongly-worded letter to Facebook, Google, Snapchat, Twitter and others, Jeremy Hunt said their failure to prevent young children using social media and exposing children to its "harmful emotional side effects" was "unacceptable and irresponsible." Hunt said Sunday he was particularly concerned about the lack of age verification measures, with thousands breaching minimum user age rules. He gave the companies a week to set out steps they are taking to cut underage use, prevent cyberbullying, and promote limited screen time. Hunt last year attacked Facebook for releasing a version aimed at children, telling the company to "stay away from my kids."

Nation

4 dead in Waffle House shooting in Tennessee; suspect sought

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A nearly naked gunman wearing only a green jacket and brandishing an assault rifle stormed a Waffle House restaurant in Nashville early Sunday, shooting four people to death before a customer rushed him and wrestled the weapon away.

Authorities were searching for the 29-year-old suspect, Travis Reinking, who they said drove to the busy restaurant and killed two people in the parking lot before entering and continuing to fire. When his AR-15 rifle either jammed or the clip was empty, the customer disarmed him in a scuffle.

Four people were also wounded before the gunman fled, throwing off his jacket.

Nashville Police Chief Steve Anderson said there was no clear motive, though Reinking may have “mental issues.” He may still be armed, Anderson told a mid-afternoon news conference, because he was known to have owned a handgun that authorities have not recovered.

U.S. Secret Service agents arrested Reinking last July for being in a restricted area near the White House, officials said. Special Agent Todd Hudson said Reinking was detained after refusing to leave the restricted area, saying he wanted to meet President Donald Trump.

State police in Illinois, where Reinking lived until last fall, subsequently revoked his state firearms card at the request of the FBI and four guns were then taken from him, including the AR-15 used in Sunday’s shooting as well as a handgun, authorities said.

Sheriff Robert Huston in



People look over an area near a window shot out at a Waffle House restaurant Sunday, April 22, 2018, in Nashville, Tenn.

Tazewell County, Illinois, said deputies allowed Reinking’s father to take possession of the guns on the promise that he would “keep the weapons secure and out of the possession of Travis.” Huston added that, based on past deputies’ encounters with Reinking, “there’s certainly evidence that there’s some sort of mental health issues involved.”

While Huston said it was unclear how Reinking reclaimed the guns, Nashville Police spokesman Don Aaron said that his father “has now acknowledged giving them back to his son.”

Phone calls to a number listed for the father, Jeffrey Reinking, went unanswered.

Meanwhile, authorities

hailed the customer who intervened to stop a further bloodbath, 29-year-old James Shaw, Jr., as a hero—though the father of a 4-year-old girl demurred and said he was just trying to survive.

One hand bandaged, Shaw told reporters he first thought the gunshots fired around 3:25 a.m. were plates falling from a dishwashing station.

When he realized what was happening, he took cover behind a door as shots shattered windows. The gun either jammed or needed a new clip, and that’s when Shaw said he pounced after making up his mind that “he was going to have to work to kill me.”

Shaw said he was not a religious man, but “for a tenth of

a second, something was with me to run through that door and get the gun from him.”

They cursed at each other as they scuffled, Shaw said, and he was able to grab the gun and toss it over a counter. The gunman then ran away into the dark of the working- and middle-class Antioch neighborhood of southeast Nashville.

Authorities said he shed his jacket nearby and police found two AR-15 magazines loaded with bullets in the pockets. He was seen walking, naked, on a road, officials said, but later was spotted wearing pants but no shirt after apparently returning to his apartment.

Another witness, Chuck Cordero, told The Tennessean newspaper he had stopped to

get a cup of coffee and was outside the Waffle House when the chaos unfolded.

“He did not say anything,” Cordero said of the gunman, who he described as “all business.”

Cordero said Shaw saved lives. “There was plenty more people in that restaurant,” he said.

The dead were identified as 29-year-old restaurant worker Taurean C. Sanderlin, and restaurant patrons Joe R. Perez, 20, Akilah Dasilva, 23, and Deebony Groves, 21. A police statement said Sanderlin and Perez were killed outside the restaurant, Groves was fatally shot inside, and Dasilva was critically wounded inside and later died at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Aaron, the police spokesman, said two of the wounded were being treated for gunshot wounds at the medical center, where spokeswoman Jennifer Wetzel said one was in critical condition and the other was in critical but stable condition.

TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center spokeswoman Katie Radel in Nashville said two people were treated for minor injuries and released.

Aaron said Reinking had been employed in construction and lived near the restaurant, and police used yellow crime scene tape to block public access to an apartment complex about a half-mile from the Waffle House. Reinking is originally from Morton, Illinois.

“This is a very sad day for the Waffle House family,” the company said in a statement on Twitter. “We ask for everyone to keep the victims and their families in their thoughts and prayers.”

Hundreds mourn
New Mexico
woman killed in
Southwest flight

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Family and friends gathered Sunday to mourn an Albuquerque bank executive who died after the Southwest Airlines plane she was on blew an engine in midair.

Nearly a thousand people attended the evening service for Jennifer Riordan, 43, the Albuquerque Journal reported. The service was held at Popejoy Hall on the University of New Mexico campus, her alma mater.

“We appreciate the outpouring of support from the community. It truly touches our hearts,” the Riordan family wrote in a statement. “We know there are many in the community who want to celebrate Jennifer.”



Riordan

Lt. Gov. John Sanchez presented Michael Riordan with a flag that was flown at half-staff at New Mexico’s Capitol in Jennifer Riordan’s memory.

“She was considered a friend, colleague, and pillar of the community and will be forever missed,” Sanchez said.

The community leader and mother of two had been heading home from a business trip Tuesday on a flight from New York’s LaGuardia Airport bound for Dallas.

Early in the flight as the plane was at 32,000 feet (9,754 meters), one of its twin engines suddenly exploded. The impact showered the jet with debris and shattered the window next to Riordan.

Authorities said Riordan was fatally injured when she was sucked partway through the window, sending passengers scrambling to help her as the aircraft shook violently and went into a rapid descent. The plane made an emergency landing in Philadelphia. Riordan was the only one of the 149 people on board who suffered fatal injuries.

The National Transportation Safety Board believes one of the engine fan blades snapped.

Riordan was well known in the Albuquerque area for an established career in community engagement and volunteerism.

In Denver, trying to put a price on the value of a newspaper

DENVER (AP)—Across the street from the Colorado Capitol rises an 11-story building emblazoned with The Denver Post’s logo. No reporters work out of the building any more, only executives of Digital First Media, whose cuts at the Post triggered an unusual plea from the paper’s own editorial page to be sold to another owner.

Five hundred miles to the west, the Salt Lake Tribune newsroom takes up one floor of the building that bears its name, overlooking snow-capped mountains and the arena where the Utah Jazz play. Once a Digital First property that dealt with staff reductions and feared closure, the paper was sold to a prominent local family in 2016. Since then, its reporters received their first raise in a de-

cade and won a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

Though its home city is less than one-third the size of Denver, the Tribune’s newsroom staff of about 90 is larger than the Post’s roughly 60, who work out of leased offices in an industrial area northeast of the city.

“Denver is such a big, vibrant community to have a staff that is smaller than ours—that’s just a mockery,” said Mike Gorrell, a veteran Tribune reporter.

As Colorado’s civic community tries to mount a journalistic rescue mission and buy the Post, it is looking to Salt Lake City and other cities like Boston, Minneapolis and Philadelphia that have seen wealthy residents keep their newspapers viable. What

happens in Denver could be a signal to a battered newspaper industry, reeling from dwindling ad revenues, of what the future looks like.

“You’ve got a better shot when there’s a local owner—there’s going to be pressure on that person to keep that asset vibrant,” said former Denver Post editor Greg Moore, who contributed a column to the Post’s April 9 editorial package. “If Denver’s future was like Salt Lake’s and they had a local owner with deep pockets who cared, that’d be the best outcome.”

That was the hope of the Post’s editorial page when it published its rebellious call for a sale with the headline: “As vultures circle, The Denver Post must be saved.” Editorial Page Editor Chuck Plunkett

did not inform the newspaper’s editor or owners of the editorial and accompanying columns slamming Digital First and the New York-based Hedge Fund that owns it, Alden Global Capital, which the editorial called “vulture capitalists.”

“The smart money is that in a few years The Denver Post will be rotting bones,” the editorial warned.

Digital First and Alden did not reply to requests from The Associated Press for comment. The chain owns more than 80 newspapers and is known for cutting deeply. Critics say it vacuums up the profits from the reduced newsrooms and funnels them into other ventures.

In the days after the Post editorial, the editor of the Bay Area News Group, also owned

by Digital First and reeling from heavy cuts, published a sympathetic column. Last week, the editorial page editor of the Boulder Daily Camera, another Digital First property, self-published his plea for a buyer, saying his bosses would not allow it in their newspaper. It’s unclear if the Post is even for sale, and there’s no guarantee of a buyer surfacing in Denver.

Colorado’s civic scene does not have a dominant family like the one in Utah who purchased the Tribune, the Huntsmans, which includes the recently deceased Jon Huntsman Sr., who founded an \$11 billion industrial company. His son is Jon Huntsman Jr., the former governor of the state who is now the U.S. ambassador to Russia.

Asia

World watching for signs of N. Korea nuke deal at 2 summits

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—When North Korean leader Kim Jong Un meets South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Friday the world will have a single overriding interest: How will they address North Korea's decades-long pursuit of nuclear-armed missiles?

Success, even a small one, on the nuclear front could mean a prolonged detente and smooth the path for a planned summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in May or June. Optimists hope that the two summits might even result in a grand nuclear bargain.

North Korea's announcement on Saturday to suspend further nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and close its nuclear test site raised hopes in Washington and Seoul for a breakthrough in the upcoming nuclear negotiations. However, the North's statement stopped well-short of suggesting it has any intentions to give up its nukes or halt its production of missiles.

Failure to reach a nuclear agreement would raise serious questions about the sincerity of Kim's recent outreach to Seoul and Washington and rekindle the fears of war that spread across the Korean Peninsula last year.

A look at the prospects of a North Korean disarmament deal ahead of the two impending summit talks:

INTER-KOREAN SUMMIT

Although North Korea has expressed a willingness to have "candid" talks with the United States about the denuclearization of the peninsula, there's rampant skepticism about whether Kim will give up his nukes.

Those weapons are the core of his authoritarian rule, a "powerful treasured sword" meant to neutralize U.S. nuclear threats. And the North's call for "the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" has been linked to a demand for the withdrawal of the 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea.

Kim suggested during a trip to Beijing in March that he prefers step-by-step disarmament in return for corresponding concessions. That, critics say, could allow the North to covertly continue its weapons programs while winning badly needed aid, which occurred during now-dormant six-nation nuclear talks from 2003-2008.

Analysts say it's likely that Kim will make similar commitments during the inter-



In this June 16, 2004 file photo, South Korean army soldiers remove loudspeakers used for propaganda near the demilitarized zone between South and North Korea, in Paju, South Korea. AP

SKorea halts propaganda broadcasts before summit with North

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea halted anti-Pyongyang propaganda broadcasts across the rivals' tense border on Monday days before their leaders are to sit down for talks expected to focus on the North's nuclear program, Seoul officials said.

Seoul had blasted propaganda messages and K-pop songs from border loudspeakers since the North's fourth nuclear test in early 2016. Pyongyang quickly matched Seoul's campaign with its own border broadcasts and launches of balloons carrying anti-South leaflets across the border.

South Korea, however, turned off its broadcasts to try to ease military tensions and establish an environment

for peaceful talks, Seoul's Defense Ministry said in a statement.

It said Seoul hopes its action would lead to both sides stopping mutual slander and propaganda activities. Yonhap news agency reported unspecified North Korean broadcasts were sporadically heard in the South on Monday morning. South Korean defense officials said they couldn't immediately confirm the status of the North's broadcasts.

The move came amid a recent thaw of animosities, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un trying to reach out to Seoul and Washington in recent months after conducting his country's sixth and most powerful nuclear test and three long-range missile

test-launches last year.

Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in are to meet at a border village on Friday in the rivals' third-ever summit talks. Kim is to hold separate summit talks with President Donald Trump in May or early June in what would be the first North Korea-U.S. summit talks.

Kim has said he was willing to place his nuclear program up for negotiations. But it was unclear how serious disarmament steps he would offer during the two sets of the summit talks. U.S. officials have said they want to the North to take complete disarmament measures.

North Korea said Saturday it would close its nuclear testing facility and suspend

nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests. But the country stopped short of suggesting it has any intention of giving up its nuclear weapons or scale back its production of missiles and their related component parts.

Trump nonetheless tweeted Sunday that the North has "agreed to denuclearization (so great for World), site closure, & no more testing!" Trump's pick to be the next secretary of state, CIA Director Mike Pompeo, traveled to North Korea on Easter weekend to lay the groundwork for the meeting. Pompeo's trip was a clear indication that preparations for the North-U.S. summit were under way though many U.S. and other foreign experts had doubts.

because he's closing in on his goal of developing nuclear missiles capable of striking the continental U.S. after decades of struggle and sacrifice.

After his country's most-powerful-to-date long-range missile test in November, Kim said the North had "finally realized the great historic cause of completing the state nuclear force." Foreign experts, though, say the North still has a couple of technological barriers to overcome to build reliable intercontinental ballistic missiles.

WHAT KIND OF DEAL?

One disarmament step Kim might have in mind is to freeze or dismantle an ICBM program that poses a direct threat to the United States. Go said Kim could also offer to allow international nuclear inspectors back into his country and promise to dismantle the North's old plutonium-producing reactor at its main nuclear complex because it has a uranium-enrichment plant that can also manufacture bombs.

North Korea could also submit a list of facilities or equipment to be disabled or dismantled and then allow the United States to inspect disarmament procedures. This process, however, could easily be disrupted if the North asks for excessive rewards for partial disarmament steps or the country fails to let outsiders inspect military bases or other sensitive places with possible nuclear weapons.

Kim Taewoo, a former president of the Korea Institute for National Unification, also warned that a deal freezing the North's nuclear capability at current levels or scrapping an ICBM program while leaving intact shorter-range missiles that place South Korea within striking distance won't change security threats South Korea faces. The North already likely has the technology to mount atomic warheads on shorter-range missiles targeting South Korea and Japan.

He said the two upcoming summits are a "huge gamble" for all three leaders if they don't produce a breakthrough. If the summits fail, the world won't tolerate any future Kim Jong Un charm offensive because of a belief that he tried to use the summits to weaken sanctions or buy time to perfect his nuclear program. Trump would be seen as being duped. And Moon would have to choose whether to risk undermining ties with Washington by continuing to improve ties with North Korea.

Korean summit as a way of reaching out to the United States. Go Myong-Hyun of the Seoul-based Asan Institute for Policy Studies said Kim may also offer up a rough timetable for denuclearization.

NORTH KOREA-US SUMMIT

North Korea argues that it needs its nukes because of the U.S. military presence in South Korea and annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises that the North claims are an invasion rehearsal.

During the two summits, Kim may demand a security guarantee for his government, the scrapping of what he calls U.S. hostility and the easing or lifting of international sanctions on the North. The Kim-Trump meeting, not the Korean summit, will be the main venue for dealing with nukes because the United States must largely determine whether to accept the North's demands.

Kim therefore has an interest in making his meeting with Moon a success, espe-

cially following reconciliation in recent months that saw athletes from both countries parade together during the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics opening ceremony and South Korean pop stars perform in Pyongyang.

It's much less clear how the Kim-Trump meeting will go. Trump's pick for secretary of state, Mike Pompeo, said recently that "no one is under any illusions that we will reach a comprehensive agreement." Pompeo made a secret trip to meet with Kim

and discuss the summit in recent weeks.

Trump seemed more optimistic after North Korea's announcement on Saturday, to which he responded with a tweet saying, "This is very good news for North Korea and the World" and "big progress!" He added that he's looking forward to his upcoming summit with Kim.

U.S. officials have said they want complete, verifiable and irreversible disarmament by North Korea. Kim won't likely accept that anytime soon

World

Israeli minister vows to help Ethiopian Jews move to Israel

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—Israel's Justice minister vowed to help Ethiopia's Jews immigrate to Israel as soon as possible during a rare visit to Ethiopia.

Ayelet Shaked visited the synagogue in Addis Ababa on Sunday.

"These programs that will eventually reunite Ethiopian Jews with their families in Israel are not generally easy," said Shaked to the group gathered in the synagogue.

"But I will try everything within my power to work with relevant offices to make this happen in the shortest time possible," she said.

Shaked, on what is reported to be her first official visit to Africa, said she came to find out more about the situation of Ethiopia's estimated 8,000 remaining Jews.

Members of the Ethiopian Jews who attended the meeting told her that they want to move to Israel, where many family members moved years ago. They said they want "aliya," the Hebrew term for the immigration of Jews in other parts of the world to Israel.

"We know aliyah for Jews that are descendants in other countries happened so swiftly that sometimes even their dogs were also included as they moved to Israel. Are we less important than these dogs?" asked Meles Sidisto, the community head of Ethiopia's Jews in Addis Ababa.

In an emotional speech, Si-



Israel's Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked speaks to members of Ethiopia's Jewish community, during a visit to a synagogue in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Sunday, April 22, 2018. AP

disto reaffirmed that members of Ethiopia's Jewish population plan to stage a mass hunger strike should Israel fail to reunite them with their families soon.

"We are unhappy here. We have had enough here. If our situation is not resolved in a very short time, we will hold a momentous mass hunger strike that will help us present our voice to Israel and the world," he said.

The Ethiopian Jews met with Shaked in the small hall

decorated with Israeli flags and scriptures. Some said they have been separated for decades from close family members who moved to Israel.

Tigabu Worku, one of the synagogue's most active members, read a letter to Shaked in which he complained that he has been separated from his family for years.

"I have been torn from my younger sisters Leah and Sarah for 18 years," said Tigabu. "Eighteen years I have missed them. Eighteen years I have

waited to see their faces that I no longer remember."

Ethiopia's Falashmuras are believed to be descendants of one of the Ten Lost Tribes of ancient Israel. Ethiopia's Jewish people mainly live in the Amhara and Tigray provinces.

Thousands of Falashmuras moved to Israel following the Law of Return in April 1975 and most of those who remain in Ethiopia have been separated for well over a decade from family members who moved to Israel.

About 140,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel today, a

small minority in a country of over 8 million. Their assimilation hasn't been smooth, with many arriving without a modern education and then falling into unemployment and poverty.

Although many of those remaining in Ethiopia are practicing Jews, Israel doesn't consider them Jewish, meaning they are not automatically eligible to immigrate under its "law of return," which grants automatic citizenship to anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent. Instead, the government must OK their arrival.

Ethiopian community members have been permitted to immigrate over the last two decades in limited bursts that have left hundreds of families torn apart.

The Israeli government did not approve the funding for the movement of the Ethiopians in its new budget but said a special ministerial committee would discuss the issue. A date for that meeting had not been announced.

Why French globalist Macron is befriending nationalist Trump

PARIS (AP)—Of everything Emmanuel Macron has accomplished in nearly a year as France's president, the most important may be his tough-love friendship with Donald Trump.

From their first bone-squeezing handshake to Macron's recent claim that he persuaded Trump to bomb Syria, it's been an improbable relationship. And it will be on pomp-filled display starting Monday as Macron goes on a state visit to Washington, the first by any leader since Trump took office.

Macron calls Trump all the time. With other world leaders too wary or weak to woo the impulsive U.S. president, Macron calculates that it's smarter and safer to talk to Trump than isolate him.

The 40-year-old moderate progressive, who had never held elected office before he won France's presidential election, defended his overtures to the 71-year-old conservative Trump in an interview on the broadcast "Fox News Sunday."

"I am not going to judge ... what should be your president, or to consider that because of these controversies or because of these investigations, your president is less credible," he said. The French president has the most to gain from the three-day state visit. He wants to fortify his image as the face of today's Europe and the No.

1 defender of a liberal world order, as well as prove that France is essential to solving world problems such as Iran's nuclear ambitions and international trade wars.

His aims may sound like French hubris or wishful thinking, but they are consistent with the "France is back" global strategy Macron has set for his tenure.

He talks regularly to Russian President Vladimir Putin and other controversial leaders, too. He also has tried his own diplomatic maneuvering in the Middle East with the goals of defending French interests and making sure Europe has a say in the region's future.

For all their camaraderie, Macron and Trump disagree on some fundamental issues.

Take global warming. Macron mocked Trump's campaign slogan by promising in a Twitter video he recorded in English to "Make our planet great again!" The video was posted moments after Trump announced he wanted to pull out of the U.N.-sponsored Paris climate accord last year.

Policy toward Iran is another point of discord. France is the most vigorous defender of the 2015 deal curbing Iran's nuclear ambitions. Trump is threatening to abandon the agreement next month. Macron hopes to make progress this week on convincing Trump to stay onboard.

Mexico holds its first presidential debate for July election

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The first of Mexico's presidential debates opened Sunday night with rivals concentrating their fire on front-runner Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who defended the idea of an amnesty to fight drug violence and revived his famous campaign slogan from 2006, "For the good of all, the poor come first."

The leftist candidate defended his proposals to "speak with everybody" to solve Mexico's crime problem. He said he would even invite the pope to discuss how to carry out such a dialogue.

The other candidates harshly criticized the amnesty proposal. Third-place candidate Jose Antonio Meade said the proposal put Lopez Obrador "on the side of the criminals."

But all of the candidates conceded that Mexico's anti-crime and law enforcement policies have been a failure.

Even Meade, who is running for the governing Institutional Revolutionary Party,

the PRI, and who served in several Cabinet posts in the current administration, acknowledged the weakness of police. "Above all, we don't investigate," he said.

Several candidates proposed creating an FBI-style federal investigation agency to make up for the fact that drug cartels operate freely in many parts of Mexico.

Since his failed presidential bids in 2006 and 2012, Lopez Obrador has sought to move to the middle and hadn't much mentioned the "poor come first" slogan of the 2006 campaign until Sunday. He later hedged it a bit, saying that if he is elected, his government "would represent the rich and the poor."

In 2006, Lopez Obrador also held a significant lead early in the race, and conservative sectors sought to link him to another leftist—then President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, whose socialist policies are blamed by many for the economic implosion that is wrack-

ing that country.

Ricardo Anaya, the former head of the conservative National Action Party, again sought to play the Venezuela card Sunday, saying Lopez Obrador's proposal to hold recall votes was similar to tactics used by Venezuela's ruling socialists to hold on to power.

Known in the past for his extremely slow and often rambling speech, Lopez Obrador on Sunday was focused and appeared better prepared. He had little problem distinguishing himself from the other four candidates, because they all often turned to attack him.

Lopez Obrador has held a lead of as much as 20 points in some opinion polls on the July 1 elections.

"This isn't just another election," Lopez Obrador said. "This is to truly change things in this country."

Lopez Obrador became overconfident in 2006, skipped a debate and eventually lost by a tiny margin, and that the danger appeared to hover over him

Sunday. At one point he said: "Here is the latest poll and, not to brag, but with all humility, 48 percent. Something terrible would have to happen" for him not to win.

Foreign policy was absent from the first debate, though it will be on the agenda for debates in May and June, but independent candidate and former first lady Margarita Zavala still got in a swipe at U.S. President Donald Trump.

"The focus of my government will be to defend Mexicans, to defend you, from the corrupt ones, from the criminals, defend you from Trump," Zavala said.

The debate was also marked by a couple of bizarre proposals. Independent candidate Jaime Rodriguez, the swaggering governor of the northern state of Nuevo Leon, proposed cutting off the hands of politicians who steal public funds.

And, he said, "Mexico would be great ... if the president answered WhatsApp messages."

Focus

At war with Alibaba: Top brands fight China e-commerce

By ERIKA KINETZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHANGHAI (AP)—It was looking like a banner year for business in China. The U.S. clothing company was expecting a 20 percent jump in online sales on Alibaba's Tmall, thanks to the e-commerce giant's massive reach.

But executives soon learned that what Alibaba gives, it can also take away.

The company refused to sign an exclusive contract with Alibaba, and instead participated in a big sale promotion with its archrival, JD.com Inc. Tmall punished them by taking steps to cut traffic to their storefront, two executives told The Associated Press. They said advertising banners vanished from prominent spots in Tmall sales showrooms, the company was blocked from special sales and products stopped appearing in top search results.

The well-known American brand saw its Tmall sales plummet 10 to 20 percent for the year.

"Based on our sales record, we should have been in a prominent position, but we were at the bottom of the page," said the brand's e-commerce director, who spoke only on condition of anonymity for fear of further retaliation. "That's a clear manipulation of traffic. That's a clear punishment."

As the Trump administration pushes China to play by fair trade rules, companies are caught in a quieter but no less crucial struggle for rules-based access to a \$610 billion online marketplace, an AP investigation has found.

Executives from five major consumer brands told the AP that after they refused to enter exclusive partnerships with Alibaba, traffic to their Tmall storefronts fell, hurting sales. Three are American companies with billions in annual sales that rely on China for growth.

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. denied punishing the companies.

In a statement, Alibaba said pursuing exclusive deals is a common industry practice and called the charges of coercion "completely false."

"Alibaba and Tmall conduct business in full compliance with Chinese laws," Alibaba said. "Like many e-commerce platforms, we have exclusive partnerships with some of the merchants on Tmall. The merchant decides to choose such an arrangement because of the attractive services and value Tmall brings to them."

The executives spoke to the AP only on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, but their concerns were echoed by a U.S. industry group, brand consultants and policy makers in China and JD.com itself.

In a speech about cyberspace last week, Chinese president Xi Jinping said ensuring free and fair competition online was a regulatory priority, citing the need "to cultivate a fair market environment, strengthen intellectual property protection, and oppose monopoly and unfair competition," state media reported.

In its months-long investigation, the AP interviewed more than 30 people and reviewed two contracts from Alibaba that contained the previously unreported exclusivity clauses. The AP found that the platforms that control access to Chinese consumers online wield such enor-



Jack Ma, founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, gestures as he arrives for a meeting with Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha in Bangkok, Thailand Thursday, April 19, 2018 during a visit to the country to announce the group's investment in the Thai government's Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) scheme.

mous power that even multi-billion dollar foreign companies can have trouble fighting back.

"We urge the authorities to quickly investigate and take steps to ensure such practices are eliminated from the growing Chinese marketplace," said Stephen Lamar, executive vice-president of the American Apparel & Footwear Association, adding that members of his industry group had complained about unfair competitive practices by Alibaba.

JD.com is a member and sponsor of the trade group.

Imagine a company twice as profitable as Amazon that each year serves more people than live in all of North America. That's Alibaba. It claims to be the marketplace for nearly \$550 billion a year in sales—more than is sold online in the entire U.S. economy.

The trials of the affected companies offer a rare window onto a bruising business culture forged in China that could spread as Alibaba takes its aggressive, innovative and hugely profitable model of e-commerce global. To the extent that their products are manufactured in the United States—and some are—constricting sales in China's critical growth market can also deepen the imbalance of trade between China and the U.S., a gap that is a top concern for the Trump administration.

The competition between Alibaba and JD.com is so infamous in China—and so dirty—it's been dubbed the "great cat-and-dog war," after Tmall's black-cat mascot and JD.com's white dog.

Wang Hongbo, a consultant who helps Chinese brands sell online abroad, echoed the problems cited by the companies who spoke to AP.

"Many brands complained about this to us. Because they didn't fall in line, they faced restrictions on Tmall," he said.

JD.com said that over 100 Chinese brands defected last year due to pressure from its main rival, an assertion Alibaba and some brands have contested. The exodus appears to have had a lasting impact.

"Based on the feedbacks we received from

these merchants, the move was mainly due to the coercive tactics from our competition, which if proven true would be illegal and clearly against the merchants' will," said Sidney Huang, JD.com's chief financial officer, said in a November earnings call.

Peacebird, a Chinese fashion company, is among those that left JD.com last year. But Weng Jianghong, the company's general manager of e-commerce, said Alibaba had not coerced them and the decision to focus on Tmall was strategic.

"We will centralize and develop the limited resources of our company on Tmall," he said.

Many companies, including JD.com, do exclusive deals. However, JD.com maintains that it doesn't strategically push merchants for exclusivity.

"We support fair and open competition because greater choice is always better for brands and users," JD.com said in a statement. "We are winning over customers by providing a superior shopping experience, rather than by limiting the options of brands or consumers."

JD.com is still trying to get brands to return. "We do believe there will be more merchants coming back," Huang said in a call last month with analysts. "But I do not expect a very quick fix."

PLAY OR PAY

Tmall controlled six of every ten dollars spent overall for business-to-consumer sales online in China in the second half of last year—and even more for sectors like apparel—giving it enormous power over companies that rely on Alibaba for access to Chinese consumers online.

The contracts reviewed by AP offered a suite of benefits in exchange for exclusivity. One contract specified that brands must not operate storefronts on other e-commerce platforms without Tmall's written permission. The other contract mandated that new products not be launched on competing platforms and barred brands from sales promotions on other platforms without Tmall's written permission.

Such sales events are the lifeblood of online commerce in China. The country's massive Singles Day promotion in November, which started

as an anti-Valentine's Day gimmick, is now the world's largest e-commerce event. Last year, Alibaba said \$25 billion worth of merchandise was sold on its platforms alone, compared with just \$14.5 billion in total online sales in the U.S. for Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday and Cyber Monday combined, according to data from Adobe Systems Inc.

Brands cited commercial, ideological and legal reasons for refusing to cut off business with JD.com.

Some said that different people shop in different ways on JD.com and Tmall, so cutting off JD.com means cutting off access to a pool of potential shoppers.

"It's clear from the data we look at these are distinct consumer pools,"

said the China head of a publicly-traded company. "If I lost the JD business I would lose a certain part of that business. Another part is on principle: This is blatant anticompetitive behavior."

Others cited legal concerns. "We didn't want to go for it in part because we thought it might be an illegal agreement in restraint of trade," said an executive for a second publicly-traded company.

"We're chided when we participate in promotional events on other platforms," he added. "What's never said but actually happens when we don't cooperate in the way they want us to is our traffic falls. It's not a coincidence."

Two companies said they granted concessions to Alibaba, agreeing to exclusive product launches, raising their prices on JD.com, or removing ads promoting JD.com sales. Traffic to their Tmall shops rebounded. One company said it ultimately closed its flagship on JD.com to salvage Tmall sales.

"You have to go beg," said the China director of a multi-billion dollar publicly-traded company.

THE GREAT CAT-AND-DOG WAR

Tmall and JD.com have different business models but they are increasingly pushing onto each other's turf.

Alibaba's online marketplaces connect buyers and sellers. Alibaba earns money from advertising, as well as commissions and fees. JD.com runs a similar marketplace but, like Amazon, also buys products from brands, then sells and distributes the merchandise itself.

Alibaba has taken aim at JD.com's long-standing dominance in electronics, while JD.com hopes to cut into Tmall's core apparel category. Both have expanded into groceries and poured hundreds of millions of dollars into acquisitions to extend their reach into brick-and-mortar businesses.

The result is an escalating turf fight that carries a chilling message for brands: Either you're with us or against us. The Chinese have a name for this unwritten rule, "er xuan yi," choose one of two.

"Choose one of two' is a tacit understanding that has been reached by everyone, but you do not say it directly," said Zhuo Saijun, who until 2015 was a general manager of e-commerce research at Analysys Ltd., a Beijing-based big data consultancy. "This is certainly a problem for the development of retail sales channels. It is a business ethics problem, and this is how monopolies develop."

Some policymakers have raised concerns about monopolistic tendencies in Chinese e-commerce and called for more effective regulation and enforcement.

See ALIBABA on Page 18

Overdrive

AUTOREVIEW: Mitsubishi Outlander plugs into practicalityBy MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

For a company nearly left for dead two years ago, Mitsubishi is showing a lot of life.

The Outlander plug-in hybrid on sale now introduces a hot new technology to the compact SUV segment that's taking the market by storm. Outlander plug-in is a five-seat SUV that's about the size of the Chevrolet Equinox, Nissan Rogue and Toyota RAV4.

The Outlander feels so much like the perfect vehicle for the times; it's hard to believe it was little Mitsubishi that it came up with the concept of a plug-in hybrid SUV, not a multimillion-dollar-selling brand such as Chevrolet, Ford, Toyota or Volkswagen.

Plug-in hybrid vehicles, or PHEVs, are vehicles — like the Chevrolet Volt — that have batteries to carry them some distance and gasoline engines to provide the range for longer trips. Outlander PHEV has an EPA-rated 22-mile range — which it exceeded in our testing — on fully charged batteries and a total of 310 miles when its 2-liter gasoline engine kicks in after the batteries are drained.

You can select an EV-only mode that shuts out the engine or allows the engine to turn on and off as needed, depending on conditions. You can also set a charging mode that allows you to top off the battery from the gasoline engine, or choose to minimize electric power, saving it for when you get to congested urban areas where it'll do you the most good.

Mitsubishi won't provide the total power the hybrid system produces. One thing is certain: Its 277 horsepower, but it lacks the oomph you might expect

TNS
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-In Hybrid SUV.

if you added the gasoline engine's output to the two electric motors. Acceleration is not impressive. It feels closer to the 160 horsepower available from the electric motors alone.

The plug-in is almost unnervingly quiet when you're driving in EV mode. There's nearly no road noise trundling along surface streets at up to 45 miles per hour.

All Outlander plug-in hybrid vehicles have a lithium-ion battery; charging ports for 120, 240 or 440 volts, and all-wheel drive. While the Outlander's smaller batteries reduce its cruising range, they also reduce charging time. It takes 3.5 hours to fully charge the batteries with a 240-volt connection.

Mitsubishi says an Outlander can get an 80 percent charge in

25 minutes from one of the less-common DC fast chargers. A full charge from a residential 120-volt outlet takes eight hours.

Outlander's all-electric mode consistently exceeded its EPA-rated 22-mile range on a charge when I drove the SUV in stop-and-go traffic on surface streets.

The interior is roomy and comfortable. The instruments are big and clear, and the audio and climate controls have easy-to-use buttons and dials.

The non-hybrid Outlander has three rows of seats and can accommodate seven. The PHEV seats five; the battery and rear electric motor take up space under the floor that squeezed out the third row.

The lithium-ion battery pack and rear-axle electric mo-

tor take up a lot of space under the rear floor, creating a cargo area that's smaller than most competing compact SUVs.

Overall, Outlander plug-in has a lot of technology from a company such as Japan's Mitsubishi, which got a new lease on life when the Renault-Nissan alliance rescued it from near-certain bankruptcy in October 2016.

The fact that the company developed a sophisticated and unique vehicle such as the Outlander PHEV with the meager resources it had before joining the alliance is reason for optimism. Now that Mitsu is part of the world's largest automaker, there's no telling what it may do.

Chevrolet is expected to add a PHEV version of its Equi-

NUTS & BOLTS**What stands out**

- Quiet: Hushed in EV mode
- Acceleration: Lacking
- Space: Not quite as much as an SUV without a plug

■■■
2018 Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-In Hybrid SUV

What? A five-seat SUV that gets electric-only range, then runs on gas.

When? On sale now.

Where? Made in Okazaki, Japan.

What makes it go? A 2-liter 4-cylinder engine and two

electric motors.

How thirsty? 22 miles of range on its batteries, then it runs on gas. It gets 25 miles per gallon on average when running on gas alone.

How big? 15.4-feet long.

How much? Starts at \$34,595 for a base model, about a \$2,300 premium more than the conventional gas version.

Overall: A great idea, having all the practicality of an SUV with the thrift that goes with being able to drive much or all of a daily commute on electricity alone.

nox compact SUV in a year or so. It will be a disappointment if the new Toyota RAV4 that goes on sale later this

year didn't also offer a PHEV model.

Until then, the Outlander PHEV stands alone.

ALIBABA

From Page 17

"Unfair competition still exists," Wang Bingnan, a deputy director at China's Ministry of Commerce, said in a June speech about China's e-commerce market. "Behaviors like forced 'choose one of two,'" he added, "are hard for regulators to define, prove or deal with accurately."

It's not clear whether Alibaba's actions would be illegal, nor is it certain that the evidence of coercion that brands have managed to collect would hold up in court. Under China's anti-monopoly laws, companies that dominate a market cannot demand exclu-

sivity without justification. A 2015 regulation also specifically bars e-commerce platforms from restricting brands' participation in promotions on other platforms.

The rules are designed to prevent dominant players from squeezing out the competition, which could ultimately hurt both brands and consumers by giving a single, monopolistic player absolute control over prices.

JD.com has complained about anticompetitive tactics before. In 2015, the company filed a complaint with the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, a corporate regulator, accusing Alibaba of

pressuring brands into doing exclusive Singles Day sales promotions—a charge Alibaba denied. The complaint was kicked to a regional office in Zhejiang province, where Alibaba has its headquarters.

Nothing more was ever heard about it.

The regulators did not respond to requests for comment.

Alibaba said that while JD.com focuses "on groundless complaints to explain why they are losing brands, we at Alibaba are squarely focused on making our platform the best for our merchants."

MR. MA GOES GLOBAL

The battles now being waged

within China's e-commerce sector could well impact the culture and norms of e-commerce globally—at least if Alibaba's chairman, Jack Ma, has his way.

Alibaba aims to serve 2 billion consumers by 2036—or about one in four people now on the planet. Already, the value of goods sold on Alibaba's platforms in fiscal year 2017 was \$547 billion, larger than the gross domestic product of Sweden.

In June, Ma told investors that his company will rank as the fifth largest economy in the world. "Just say USA, China, Europe, maybe Japan and us," Ma said.

The company has been aggressively recruiting foreign brands to sell on its platforms, and they have come, in droves. Alibaba said it signed up 60,000 international brands for its massive Single's Day sale in November, up from 5,000 in 2015.

Alibaba's retail sales outside of China also are growing fast—they more than doubled last fiscal year to 7.3 billion yuan (\$1.1 billion), or 5 percent of total revenue.

America remains at the heart of Ma's ambition. He told president-elect Donald Trump in Jan. 2017 that he would create a million U.S. jobs by facilitating trade be-

tween businesses in the U.S. and consumers in China—a pledge he now says is imperiled by the brewing trade war between the two countries.

Brands now caught in the great cat and dog war have adopted different strategies to avoid becoming collateral damage.

An e-commerce manager at a major European brand said she'd be happy to offer totally different products on Tmall and JD.com to stay out of trouble, but worries her bosses won't go for it because it cuts off potential buyers.

Sometimes, she said, it feels "like we're working for those platforms."

Life & Style

Cosby defense team lobs attacks in court of public opinion

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jurors weren't allowed to hear testimony that Bill Cosby's chief accuser was once hooked on hallucinogenic mushrooms or had her sights set on becoming a millionaire, but that hasn't stopped the defense from airing the explosive claims about Andrea Constand in the court of public opinion.

With Cosby's sexual assault retrial heading for deliberations this week, the 80-year-old comedian's lawyers and publicists are increasingly playing to an audience of millions, not just the 12 people deciding his fate.

They're hitting at Constand's credibility in the media with attacks that Judge Steven O'Neill is deeming too prejudicial or irrelevant for court, and they're holding daily press briefings portraying Cosby as the victim of an overzealous prosecutor and an unjust legal system.

Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt has decried Constand's allegations of drugging and molestation as "fantastical stories" and deemed District Attorney Kevin Steele an "extor-

tionist" for spending taxpayer money on the case.

Lawyer Dennis McAndrews, who's been in court following the retrial, said prominent defendants like Cosby almost always play to the court of public opinion when there's no gag order, but that his team's approach hasn't been "particularly effective or convincing."

"It is so strident, and it is so hyperbolic, I think most people will turn it off," said McAndrews, who prosecuted chemical heir John E. du Pont for murder in 1997 and is not associated with either side in the Cosby case.

O'Neill is expected to rule Monday on what could be the Cosby team's last line of attack in the courtroom: whether jurors can hear deposition testimony that Cosby's lawyers say could have insights into what led Constand to accuse him.

Constand's confidante, Sheri Williams, gave the testimony as part of Constand's 2005 lawsuit against Cosby, which he wound up settling for nearly \$3.4 million. Cosby's lawyers said that testimony is vital because Williams is not responding to subpoena attempts.

Cosby's lawyers are expected to call an agent and an avia-



Bill Cosby departs after his sexual assault trial, Friday, April 20, 2018, at the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown. AP

tion consultant to the witness stand on Monday as they continue to make the case that he never visited his suburban Philadelphia mansion in January 2004—the month Constand says he knocked her out with pills and molested her there.

The date is important because Cosby was not charged until December 2015, just before the 12-year statute of limitations was set to expire.

Cosby's lead attorney, Tom

Mesereau, opened the retrial by calling Constand a "con artist" who framed Cosby for a big payday. Her former Temple University colleague Marguerite Jackson testified that Constand once mused about setting up a high-profile person.

Mesereau raised Constand's alleged drug use on Friday in a courtroom full of reporters, but no jurors, saying bus driver Robert Russell's testimony would contradict her claims of

living a healthy, holistic life. Wyatt repeated the allegations to the TV cameras outside the courthouse.

Constand's lawyer, Dolores Troiani, said in an interview that she had serious doubts about Russell's claims that Constand made extensive use of mushrooms and marijuana when they were friends in Toronto in 2001.

"This lady is a health nut," said Troiani.

In court, Mesereau argued that Russell's testimony would crack Constand's "false aura" that she's the "purest person" and undercut the prosecution's suggestion that she's "some innocent babe in the woods."

"According to her close friend for a number of years, that's nonsense," Mesereau said. O'Neill swiftly rejected the drug testimony, saying Constand's behavior three years before the alleged assault was irrelevant.

He also prevented Russell from testifying that Constand went to the U.S. with a goal of becoming a millionaire, saying it was too broad a claim to have any relevance to the assertion that she framed Cosby for money.

Some damage was already done, Troiani said.

"It is absolutely part of their strategy to smear her reputation," Troiani said. "They know they have judicial immunity, so they can say these things whether or not there's a basis in fact."

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

West announces release date for eighth album

By **RACHEL DESANTIS**
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

This is not just a God dream for fans of Kanye West—the rapper is dropping an album June 1.

West continued his viral return to Twitter with the announcement Thursday that his eighth solo studio album will consist of seven songs.

And that's not all—the Yeezy designer also revealed he and former protege Kid Cudi are teaming up as Kids See Ghost to put out another album June 8.

"me and Cudi album June 8th," West wrote. "It's called Kids See Ghost. That's the name of our group."

The big reveal capped off a string of nearly 50 tweets that saw the rapper, 40, waxing poetic on life, offering glimpses of upcoming designs for his Yeezy shoe line and diving deep into his own psyche.

"Fear often causes people to be manipulative," he wrote Tuesday. "Be transparent as possible. Stop setting plays. Stop playing chess with life. Make decisions based on love not fear."

He also addressed an upcoming book that he was

"writing in real time," and that he would be working on "when I feel like it."

West's upcoming record—which has yet to receive an official title—will be his first since 2016's "The Life of Pablo."

"Pablo," which featured assists from stars like The Weeknd, Chance the Rapper, Rihanna, Kendrick Lamar and Frank Ocean, scored the star three Grammy nominations, including a nod for Best Rap Album.

Despite the album's massive success, West has remained largely out of the spotlight over the last year following a mental breakdown that forced him to cancel a majority of his Saint Pablo tour.

He returned to the stage in November for the first time since November 2016 to join Kid Cudi in his hometown of Chicago.

The pair performed a surprised rendition of "Father Stretch My Hands, Pt. 1"—a welcome return for the star, whose mid-concert rants and erratic behavior one year prior got him placed under psychiatric evaluation at UCLA Medical Center.

New Prince record released: His version of 'Nothing Compares 2 U'

MINNEAPOLIS—Nothing compares to a new Prince record, right? Especially during unofficial Prince Week, the period commemorating the second anniversary of his death.

Warner Bros. is releasing Prince's version of "Nothing Compares 2 U," a produced rendition of the demo tape he recorded in July 1984 for the Family to learn. Their recording, which included strings arranged by Clare Fischer, appeared on the 1985 album "The Family."

On this newly released Prince record, he played all the instruments and sang lead vocals. Eric Leeds' saxophone

solo and backup vocals by the Family's co-lead singers St. Paul Peterson and Susannah Melvoin were added later.

"I learned the melody and emotional approach from Prince's version," Peterson said Thursday. "He sounds great on it. My inflections are similar to his."

In a weird twist of fate, as only can happen in a Princely world, Peterson said, "Warner Bros. sent me a copy a couple of days ago and I was sitting in the exact same spot in the exact same house 34 years ago when I received the cassette [of the song] from Prince."

Of course, "Nothing Com-

pares 2 U" famously went on to be covered by Sinéad O'Connor, whose treatment in 1990 became an international smash. She was managed by Steve Fargnoli, who had formerly managed Prince when the song was written.

Prince's demo was recorded in what he called "the Warehouse" on Flying Cloud Drive in Eden Prairie with engineer Susan Rogers.

Prince's version is available for streaming on various services and will be available as a 7-inch black vinyl on May 25 from physical retailers.

The Family—which emerged after the Time disbanded—

featured Jellybean Johnson, Jerome Benton and Peterson of the Time as well as Susannah Melvoin, who is the twin sister of Prince & the Revolution guitarist Wendy Melvoin, and saxophonist Eric Leeds, whose brother Alan was Prince's tour manager at the time. The group disbanded after one album and one concert at First Avenue.

In 2011, the Family reunited using the moniker fDeluxe. The group has since issued three albums and continues to give occasional performances. In fact, fDeluxe will play Sunday at Paisley Park as part of Celebration 2018.

Thousands sing 'Happy Birthday' to Queen Elizabeth II

LONDON (AP)—The audience at Royal Albert Hall got a rare treat Saturday — the chance to sing "Happy Birthday" to the longest reigning monarch in British history.

Queen Elizabeth II, with her eldest son Prince Charles at her side, waved to the crowd as they celebrated her 92nd birthday in song.

Charles got an enthusiastic response when he introduced her as: "Your majesty, mummy."

The queen took center

stage after a varied pop concert featuring British singers Sting, Tom Jones and Jamie Cullum along with Australian star Kylie Minogue, long a fan favorite here.

Shaggy and Craig David also performed, and the festivities took a long stroll down memory lane, with audio from a speech Elizabeth made on her 21st birthday and video from her Golden Jubilee, when roughly 1 million people gathered outside Buckingham Palace to honor her.

She was flanked in the royal box by Charles, heir to the throne, and Prince William, next in the line of succession.

Prince Harry and fiancée Meghan Markle also attended, generating a roar of applause when they took their seats. The couple will wed May 19 at Windsor Castle.

Prince William's wife Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, did not attend. She is expecting the couple's third child.

The queen's husband, Prince Philip, was also miss-

ing. He is recovering from hip replacement surgery.

The show featured contemporary tunes, but included songs from earlier eras, including selections from "My Fair Lady"—one of the queen's favorites—and a sentimental rendering of "Wonderful World."

Earlier in the day, honorary gun salutes were staged at Hyde Park, the Tower of London, a castle in Wales and the town of Windsor to mark the occasion.

This image released by Paramount Pictures shows John Krasinski, left, and Noah Jupe in a scene from "A Quiet Place."

AP

'A Quiet Place,' 'Rampage' lead newcomers at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's another weekend of buzz versus pure star power at the box office as the word of mouth sensation "A Quiet Place" finds itself neck-and-neck again with Dwayne Johnson's "Rampage." This time buzz had the slight advantage.

Studio estimates on Sunday have placed "A Quiet Place," with \$22 million, in first, and "Rampage" in second with \$21 million, but it's possible those numbers may shift when final results are tallied on Monday.

Still, John Krasinski's "A Quiet Place" continues to be a mini phenomenon. With a \$17 million production budget, "A Quiet Place" has grossed \$132.4 million from North American theaters in three weeks. "Rampage," too, is down only 41 percent domestically in its second weekend and continues to rake in the dollars globally. The film boasts a worldwide tally of \$283 million, and Johnson has continued using his social media accounts to hype the film and thank audiences.

"I never take success like

this for granted. Global success like this means so much," Johnson posted on his Instagram account Saturday night. "I'm not a Marvel movie. It's not Star Wars. 'Rampage' may as well have been called 'Dwayne Johnson and his albino gorilla friend' because it's such an obscure video game ... Thank you guys so much."

The staying power of both somewhat overshadowed the newcomers, like Amy Schumacher's "I Feel Pretty" and the sequel to the 2001 cult comedy "Super Troopers," both of which nevertheless managed to find their own niche audiences despite largely negative reviews.

"I Feel Pretty," released by STX Entertainment, grossed an estimated \$16.2 million—a little less than half of what Schumacher's "Trainwreck" opened to in July 2015. Unlike "Trainwreck," Schumacher did not write "I Feel Pretty," which is about an insecure woman who gets a life-changing confidence boost after a head injury. The concept became somewhat divisive and the subject of a fair amount of scrutiny.

R. Kelly's assistant, attorney resign following allegations against the singer

By PETER SBLENDORIO
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

A pair of women who worked with R. Kelly for years resigned from their positions amid a wave of harrowing allegations against the singer.

His assistant Diana Copeland and his entertainment attorney Linda Mensch both recently told the BBC they're no longer working with the R&B singer.

Copeland had worked as an assistant to Kelly for over a decade, while Mensch had been his lawyers for four years.

Neither woman went into much detail regarding their resignations, with Copeland telling the British outlet she wasn't employed by Kelly

since April 1, and Mensch saying she is "no longer represented Mr (sic) Kelly or his entities."

Their resignations come less than a month after BBC Three detailed explosive accusations about Kelly's treatment of women in a documentary, in which his former girlfriend Kitti Jones claimed Kelly had groomed a woman to be his pet since she was 14.

"I saw that she was dressed like me, that she was saying the things I'd say and her mannerisms were like mine," Jones told reporter Ben Zand. "That's when it clicked in my head that he had been grooming me to become one of his pets. He calls them his pets."

Kelly, 51, was also accused

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "A Quiet Place," \$22 million (\$15 million international).
2. "Rampage," \$21 million (\$57 million international).
3. "I Feel Pretty," \$16.2 million (\$2.4 million international).
4. "Super Troopers 2," \$14.7 million.
5. "Truth or Dare," \$7.9 million (\$4.1 million international).
6. "Ready Player One," \$7.5 million (\$23 million international).
7. "Blockers," \$7 million (\$2.6 million international).
8. "Black Panther," \$4.6 million (\$1.2 million international).
9. "Traffik," \$3.9 million.
10. "Isle of Dogs," \$3.4 million (\$5.6 million international).

sive and the subject of a fair amount of scrutiny.

"She's a force and that's not going to change," notes comScore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "She's always going to push the envelope. Sometimes that will

bring big box office, sometimes it won't." The partially crowd-funded "Super Troopers 2," meanwhile, leaned into its April 20 opening and scored a fourth place, \$14.7 million opening weekend for Broken Lizards and distributor 20th Century Fox.

Fifth place went to the Blumhouse horror "Truth or Dare" with \$7.9 million in its second weekend, while Lionsgate's thriller "Traffik," with Paula Patton, launched in ninth with \$3.9 million. The box office for the year remains down about 2.4 percent from last year, but that will change next week.

"We're going to see a huge turnaround later this week in the box office fortunes with 'Avengers: Infinity War,'" Dergarabedian said.

The film is tracking to make over \$200 million in its first weekend in theaters, leading some experts to wonder whether the superhero pic could have the highest opening of all time, beating out even "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Mr. Robert Kelly is both alarmed and disturbed by the recent revelations attributed to him," Mensch said in July. "Mr. Kelly unequivocally denies such accusations and will work diligently and forcibly to pursue his accusers and clear his name."

Last week, a woman filed paperwork in Dallas through her attorney that accuses Kelly of giving her a sexually transmitted disease after they started dating last June. The woman claims she was 19 when they began their relationship.

A rep for Kelly "categorically" denied those accusations to the Washington Post.

Daily News denying the accusations made against him in the BuzzFeed report.

Underwood originally only informed fans about her broken wrist after the accident, but later opened up in a Janu-

Roberta Flack leaves Harlem awards show after feeling ill

NEW YORK (AP)—Singer-songwriter Roberta Flack was under observation at a Manhattan hospital Saturday after suddenly feeling ill before her appearance at Harlem's Apollo Theater.

The 81-year-old Grammy award-winner was taken to Harlem Hospital in an ambulance Friday evening, TMZ reported.

Flack apparently became very dizzy as she was about to receive a lifetime achievement award from The Jazz Foundation of America.

She was in the theater's green room, waiting to go onstage, when she suffered some kind of "episode" those around her feared might have been related to a stroke she suffered two years ago, said Jazz Foundation spokeswoman Bobbi Marcus.

On Saturday, Marcus said she spoke to Flack's manager "and am happy to report that she's doing well."

Flack has been transferred from the Harlem hospital to another Manhattan hospital where she's under the care of her private doctors, Marcus said. "They are keeping her

for observation and expect she'll be released in the next couple of days."

Earlier Friday evening, Flack arrived at the Apollo in a wheelchair for red carpet photos, looking "beautiful with hair and makeup," Marcus said.

She was being honored at the foundation's annual benefit concert, called "A Great Night In Harlem."

The show still went on, including a tribute segment to the singer who had gained fame in the 1970s and 1980s with such hit songs as "Killing Me Softly" and "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face."

Featured performers at the benefit included Cassandra Wilson, Nona Hendryx, and Alabama Shakes' lead singer, Brittany Howard.

Flack's manager, Suzanne Koga, was not immediately available on Saturday.

The mission of the Jazz Foundation of America is to provide emergency support to great jazz and blues musicians who fall on hard times and to preserve their musical legacy.

Underwood details facial injury that needed at least 40 stitches

By PETER SBLENDORIO
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Carrie Underwood went into detail for the first time about the gruesome accident she suffered last November that left her needing at least 40 stitches on her face.

The singer—who kept a low profile for months following the accident—revealed the injury she sustained occurred "around (her) mouth" and said it took place when she fell on a set of steps while walking her dogs.

"I went to catch myself and I just missed a step," Underwood said Thursday on the radio program "The Bobby Bones Show."

"If I had fallen anywhere else I would have been perfectly fine, but it was one step that messed everything up."

Underwood also suffered a broken right wrist in the fall. She says she managed to hold onto the dogs' leashes with her left hand during the fall, and tried to catch herself with the other.

"I was worried he would be scared of me," Underwood said. "But now if I put makeup on, he's like, 'Mommy, your boo-boo's all gone.'"

Underwood originally only informed fans about her broken wrist after the accident, but later opened up in a Janu-

ary post to her website that she also needed "between 40 and 50 stitches" on her face.

"You just don't know how things are going to heal or end up," Underwood told host Bobby Bones on Thursday. "It was important to me as I started resuming my life again and going to the grocery store and taking my kid and stuff like that I was like, 'OK, someone is gonna creep on me at the grocery store.' And people are going to be like, 'What happened?' when they post it on Instagram."

Underwood, who is married to NHL player Mike Fischer, stayed out of the spotlight following the fall, and refrained from posting photos of herself to social media until earlier this month when he shared a pair of pictures, including one showing her entire face.

She noted that she was wearing makeup over the injury during her appearance on Bones' show, but says she feels fortunate that she's been able to heal up well.

"I was lucky that when it happened, everything was kind of shutting down in the music world and we had the holidays and stuff like that," she said. "But I was at a point where I didn't know how things were going to end up. I didn't know what was going to go on and didn't know what it was going to heal like."

Twain apologizes for saying she would have voted for Trump

NEW YORK (AP)—Shania Twain has apologized for saying if she were American she would have voted for Donald Trump for president, even though he's offensive.

Twain made the comments in an interview with The Guardian that was published over the weekend. She told the British newspaper "Do you want straight or polite? . I

would have voted for a feeling that is transparent."

After receiving backlash, Twain took to Twitter to explain herself.

The Canadian says she wasn't prepared for the question and was trying to express how Trump had connected with a certain segment of the U.S. population.

Twain also says she's

In this Aug. 28, 2017, file photo, Shania Twain performs during opening ceremonies for the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York.

against discrimination of any kind and hopes it's clear from her public stances that she doesn't share any moral beliefs with Trump.

Poster for Elvis North Carolina show sells for over \$42,000

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—A rare vintage poster for a 1955 Elvis Presley show in North Carolina has sold at auction for more than double the expected price.

The News & Observer of Raleigh reports the poster for a show on May 19, 1955,

in Raleigh sold this month for \$42,500. Giles Moon of Texas-based Heritage Auctions says he had expected the poster to sell for about \$20,000.

The poster advertises a concert in Raleigh where Presley was on the lineup below

Hank Snow, Faron Young and other acts.

Moon says both the buyer and the seller prefer to remain anonymous. He says the buyer is from California.

The poster was made by the iconic Hatch Show Print, based in Nashville, Tennessee.

Report: Autopsies show nothing suspicious in Avicii's death

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Sweden's public broadcaster says police in Oman have conducted two autopsies on the body of Grammy-nominated electronic dance DJ Avicii, who died Friday at age 28.

Public broadcaster SVT, citing information from an anonymous police official in

Oman, reported Sunday that the autopsies revealed nothing suspicious and foul play has been ruled out in the performer's death.

The broadcaster says the body has been cleared to be taken back to Avicii's native Sweden, where he was born as Tim Bergling. Fans in Stock-

holm observed a minute of silence in his honor on Saturday.

Swedish tabloid Expressen says Avicii stayed at the Muscat Hills Resort while vacationing in Oman. Expressen says he spent time with friends, went kitesurfing and enjoyed the country so much was planning to stay a few extra days.



Fans of DJ Avicii gather at Sergels Torg following the news of his death, in central Stockholm, Sweden, Saturday, April 21, 2018.



Tyne Daly joins the cast of CBS 'Murphy Brown' reboot

Mary Beth Lacey, meet Murphy Brown.

Tyne Daly, who played Lacey in CBS' groundbreaking "Cagney and Lacey," about two female police detectives, is joining the cast of the planned reboot of "Murphy Brown."

CBS announced that Daly will play the role of Phyllis, the sister of the deceased bar owner Phil from the original series. As the new bar owner, Phyllis will be a friend and confidant to Murphy Brown (Candice Ber-

gen) and her colleagues.

The network has ordered 13 episodes of the series as it approaches its 30th anniversary. The '80s sitcom focused on Brown, a news anchor and investigative journalist for FYI, a television newsmagazine, and her colleagues. The original series had a 10-year run and received 18 Emmys.

In the revival, Brown will grapple with the news industry in the current universe of cable news, social media and

fake news.

Bergen will be joined by original cast members Faith Ford, Joe Regalbuto and Grant Shaud. New cast members include Jake McDorman and Nik Dodani.

"Murphy Brown" joins "Roseanne," which returned to ABC in March with high ratings, and "Will & Grace," which returned to NBC in 2017. Both have been renewed for second seasons. *(Los Angeles Times)*

Bette Midler returning to Broadway to end 'Hello, Dolly!' run

Well, hello Bette!

Bette Midler will reprise her Tony-winning role as Dolly Gallagher Levi in the current Broadway revival of "Hello, Dolly!" starting in July and keep the role through the end of the show's run.

Broadway veteran Bernadette Peters, who has been

playing the titular role since Jan. 20, will take her final bow July 15.

When Midler returns July 17, she'll bring other previous "Hello, Dolly!" cast members with her. David Hyde Pierce will be back as Horace Vandergelder and Tony winner Gavin Creel will return as

Cornelius Hackl.

"Hello, Dolly!" ends its Broadway run on Aug. 25. Those anxious for one last chance to see Midler as Dolly can buy tickets starting April 28.

The "Hello, Dolly!" national tour, starring Betty Buckley, launches Oct. 2. *(Los Angeles Times)*

Revelation about man's past cloud hopes for bright future

DEAR ABBY: I recently started dating a man who, until now, has been everything I wanted -- respectful, kind, caring, funny, the list goes on. He's recently divorced, and from what I know, he was unfaithful to his wife with many long-term side partners. Later, he started having one-night stands.

He travels a lot for work, and because I had a relationship where I was cheated on, his travel already is a concern for me. Since we have decided to be an official couple, he has disclosed more detail about his one-night stands. They were with prostitutes.

He says he has found peace with himself and knows what a poor decision it was, and how much damage he did to his wife because of it. He claims redemption, that he has disclosed all this to his pastor and will never be that self-destructive man again. He told me because he didn't want to have any lies of omission walking into a new relationship.

I want to believe he's the man I thought he was and that he would never disrespect me, but this was a huge blow. Should I try to move past this by giving him credit for his honesty?

DUMBSTRUCK IN CHICAGO

DEAR DUMBSTRUCK: I can't blame you for wanting to be cautious in light of this man's track record. Considering the number of women he has slept with, it's important

you have a discussion with him about any STDs he may have contracted, as well as make an appointment with your OB/GYN to be checked for them because these days they are rampant.

After that, if you are really serious about each other, go as a couple for relationship counseling so you—and he—won't bring any baggage from the past into this current relationship.

DEAR ABBY: A woman I worked with years ago recently moved to the city where I live. We are both in our mid-60s, retired and unattached. After she contacted me on a social website, we met and have continued seeing each other for lunch, movies, sporting events, etc.

I misinterpreted her attempts to become friends with me. I liked her very much and became attracted to her. Recently a situation arose in which a missed communication, an irrational act by me as well as an insensitive comment I made, upset her and now she no longer wants to talk with me. I understand her feelings.

I don't know how long I should wait to contact her to attempt to renew our friendship—a month, two months, six months or more? Or should I just walk away and hope she has a change of heart, decides to let bygones be bygones and contacts me to

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

renew the friendship?

UNFRIENDED IN NEW MEXICO

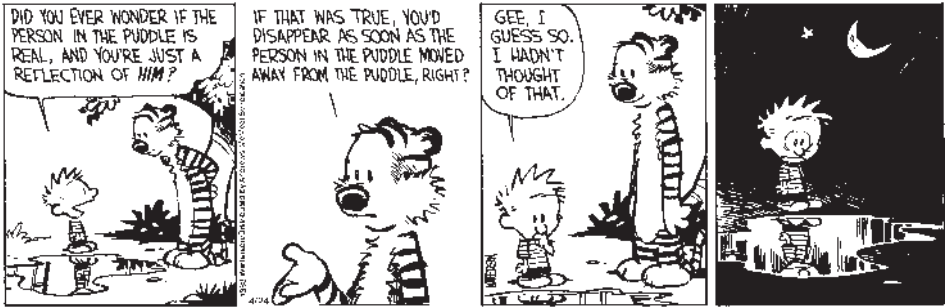
DEAR UNFRIENDED: If apologies are in order, do not wait to make them. When you do, make clear that you didn't mean to upset her or make her uncomfortable, and you would still like to be friends—on her terms—if she is willing. From there on, the ball is in her court.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



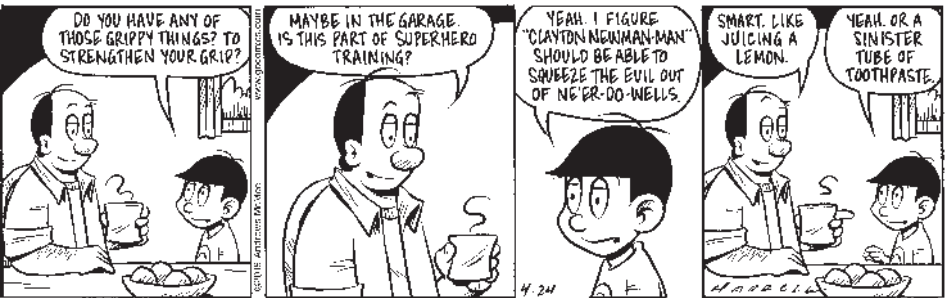
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hunger reminder

5 Scoundrel

8 Lean-to

12 Mideast airline

13 Outback bird

14 Composer Porter

15 "— girl!"

16 Contractual escape clause

18 More wacky

20 Duck down

21 Corn core

22 Curved letter

23 Eco-friendly

26 Imminent

30 Goal

31 Inmate

32 Tea holder

33 Unties

36 Vouchers

38 Zero-star review

39 Luau bowlful

40 Moral principle

43 Riot figures

47 "Listen to me ..."

49 Hawaiian island

50 Beget

51 Parcel of land

52 Daring

53 Regretably

54 Connections

55 Infamous emperor

DOWN

1 Bell sound

2 Saxophone range

3 Peace-keeping org.

4 Quick look

5 VIP on the red carpet

6 Cupid's specialty

7 Pair with an air

8 Rift

9 Cobra feature

10 Vogue rival

11 Antelope's playmate

17 Mexican money

19 Charged bit

22 A billion years

23 Cowboy's sweetie

24 Carnival city

25 Punk rock offshoot

26 — Alamos

27 Here, to Henri

28 Fanatic

29 Family docs

31 Anderson Cooper's channel

34 Rail nails

35 Apiece

36 Dove's call

37 Hired guns

39 Well-versed folks?

40 "Frozen" snow queen

41 Work hard

42 Circle dance

43 — Hubbard

44 Roof overhang

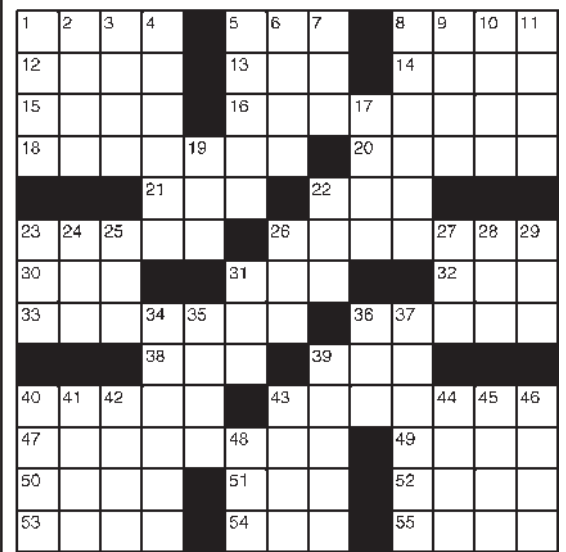
45 Contribute one

46 Missile shelter

48 Yalie

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Boudia, 29; Kelly Clarkson, 36; Cedric the Entertainer, 54; Barbra Streisand, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take the initiative to bring about positive change in your life and your relationships. Socialize more and volunteer your services for events that you find compelling and will lead to new acquaintances with unusual people. Don't feel you have to make personal changes that will cost too much. Love who you are, and so will those you encounter along the way. Your numbers are 4, 11, 20, 29, 33, 38, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Step up and do something that will make a difference to the people you love, your peers or your community. Getting along and offering hope to others will put you in a good position when you need something in return. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't feel you have to follow the crowd or make physical changes you cannot afford. Use your intelligence and skills, not your appearance, to help you get ahead. Keep your life simple and moderate to avoid being judged. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't do anything drastic. Changing your look will not turn out quite the way you want, and addressing an emotional issue will only make matters worse. Focus more on clearing a space to make room for a new project. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Secrets are best kept that way. Someone you thought was like you will disappoint you. If you want change, take action and make it happen.

Waiting for someone else to make a move will be unproductive. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make your current situation better if you aren't excessive and don't jeopardize your financial status. Practicality will weigh in heavy when it comes to easing stress and feeling secure about your future. Walk away from people with bad habits. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The changes you see going on around you aren't a mandate for you to follow suit. Consider what's best for you and surround yourself with like-minded people who can help you advance. A business trip or meeting will pay off. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen to the voice of reason and put practical applications into play. Going with the flow instead of against it will prove to be in your best interest. Don't be shy or reluctant to accept help when offered. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Over-spending is not the way to win someone's affection. Put your wallet away and use your personality and charm to turn heads. How you treat others physically and emotionally will be the deciding factor when dealing with important relationships. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Handling your relationships with colleagues or friends will be emotionally difficult. Be careful not to send the wrong message with your actions or words. You'll face criticism or blame for something you unintentionally say or do. Don't share private information. **

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you want to make a positive change, do something that will lower your overhead. Emotional problems will spin out of control, causing stress if you can't find a workable solution. Trying to control someone's bad habits will be fruitless. ***

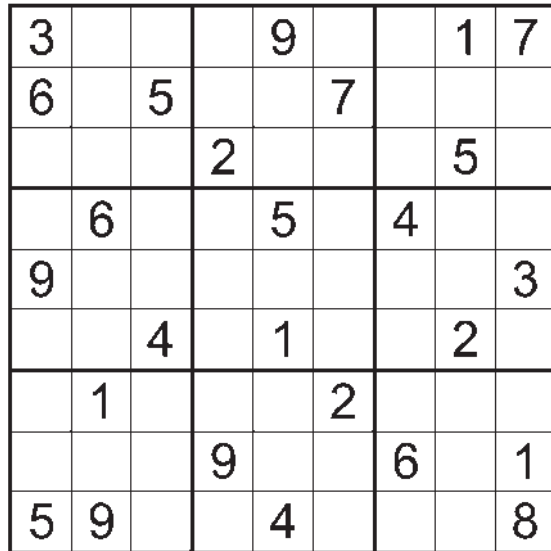
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't feel you have to pay for someone else's mistake. Offer suggestions but don't physically or financially step in and take over. Personal changes can be made as long as they are within your budget. Personal relationships will be tested. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let an offer confuse you. A change may be tempting, but before you make a decision, find out exactly what's expected of you and what you will receive in return. Don't get caught up in someone else's enthusiasm. *** Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, driven and bold. You are aggressive and dramatic.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

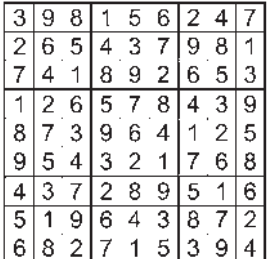
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BLACK ANG'S BEEF Solution: 9 letters



© 2018 Arcana's Mocking Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/24

Barbecue, Bos Taurus, Braise, Breed, Broiling, Browned, Bull, Burger, Butcher, Cattle, Chuck, Corn, Filet Mignon, Flank, Garlic, Good, Grade, Gravy, Grill, Hardy, Herd, Inspection, Iron, Lean, Logo, Marbling, Muscle, Pasture, Polled, Prime, Ribeye, Roasted, Round, Salted, Shank, Sirloin, Slice, Spicy, Stew, Stock, T-Bone, Tenderloin, Thick, Tri-tip

Yesterday's Answer: Delineate To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-18-2012

For: Local Public Relations and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date:
Time:

May 15, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **April 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by **May 15, 2018** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a **Notice of Intent** by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **May 15, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on April 30, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-DPW/SWMD-077

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 10, 2018 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT CAN BE MADE TO **MR. ENRIQUE DELA CRUZ**, DIRECTOR, BY EMAIL AT dpwrecycle@yahoo.com NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, APRIL 30, 2018**. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-303-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

ADDENDUM NO.2
ITB18-DCCA/HPO-052

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) NEW DIGITAL COLOR COPIER MACHINE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE"

April 23, 2017
This **Addendum No. 2** is issued to amend the specifications and also to schedule the bid submission and opening date.

In the Specifications:

- To **add** Functions: Print, copy, scan, fax, email, duplex
- To **delete** Paper Source (Cassette) Capacity – Minimum of 1,200 sheets not more or less and to **add**: Paper handling – Minimum of 1,000 sheets or more.
- To **delete**: Paper Weight Supported – 14lbs to 140lbs. Index not more or less and to **add**: Media Weight Supported – 15lbs to 150lbs. Index not more or less, duplex.

Bid Schedule:

- One (1) original and three (3) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"ITB18-DCCA/HPO-052"** to the office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP no later than **09:30 a.m., local time, May 03, 2018**.
- Firms submitting bids from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of their bid by submitting a **"Notice of Intent to Bid"** to the Director of Procurement and Supply and may be faxed to (670) 664-1515 or emailed to procurement@cnmidof.net no later than **09:30 a.m., local time, May 03, 2018**.
- For bidders located outside the CNMI, a package containing **one (1) original and three (3) copies** of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign county no less than **May 03, 2018** and mailed to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply to P.O. Box 510008, C.K., Saipan, MP 96950 and the bid documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **09:30 a.m., local time, May 16, 2018**. Late submission and conditional bids will not be considered.
- Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **09:30 a.m., local time, May 16, 2018**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Bid were received from bidders outside of CNMI, bids will be opened at **09:30 a.m., local time, May 03, 2018**.

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

End of Addendum No. 2

WHATZIT Solution: Nothing new under the sun

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$30
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Astros rout White Sox, roll to 6th straight win



CHICAGO (A)

—The Houston Astros are rolling into a high-profile AL West matchup at the Los Angeles Angels.

Jose Altuve hit a go-ahead single in a five-run seventh inning, and the Astros stretched their winning streak to six with a 7-1 win over the Chicago White Sox on Sunday.

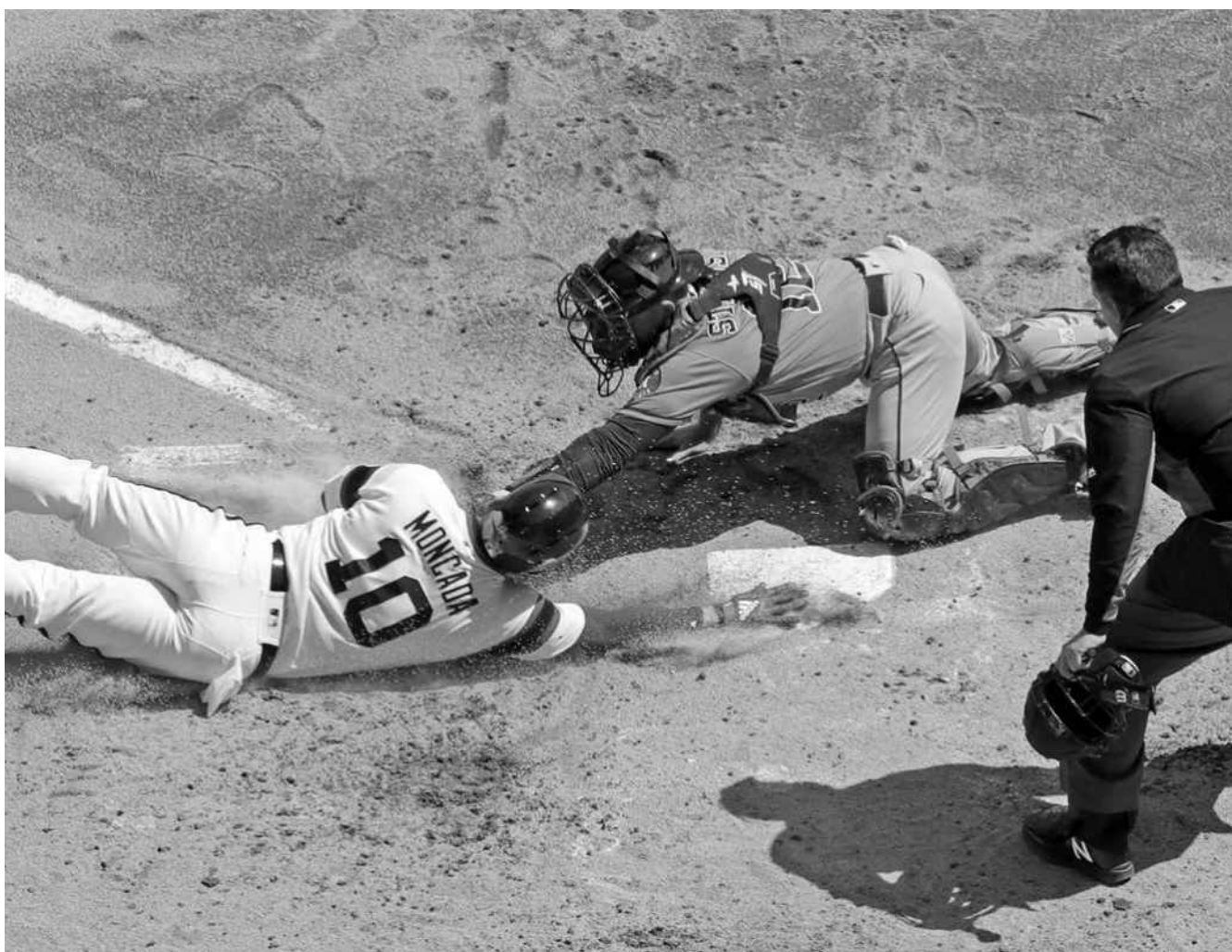
Lance McCullers Jr. (3-1) allowed one run and eight hits over six innings, Evan Gattis hit his first home run of the season and the World Series champions completed a three-game sweep in which they outscored Chicago 27-2.

“When we can play all facets of the game, we are a tough team to match up with,” Astros manager A.J. Hinch said.

Next up, a three-game series at the Angels starting Monday.

Chicago has lost seven straight games and 12 of 13, dropping to 4-14 for the season.

“When you’re in the middle of a rebuild, struggling is going to happen,” White Sox shortstop Tim Anderson said.



AP
Houston Astros catcher Max Stassi, top, tags out Chicago White Sox's Yoan Moncada during the third inning of a baseball game Sunday, April 22, 2018, in Chicago.

Athletics 4, Red Sox 1

In Oakland, Khris Davis hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer off David Price with two outs in the eighth inning and the Oakland Athletics beat Boston to deal the Red Sox consecutive losses for the first time under new manager Alex Cora.

Boston had won its first six series before losing two of three at the Coliseum, where they were no-hit Saturday by Sean Manaea. They still have the best record in the majors at 17-4.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 1

In New York, Gleyber Torres went 0 for 4 with a strikeout, double-play grounder, popup and fly out in his big league debut, and the youthful Yankees beat the Toronto Blue Jays when New York used a starting lineup that didn't include a player 30 or older for the first time since Sept. 29, 1989.

Luis Severino (4-1) allowed three hits and struck out six in seven innings, and David

Robertson and Aroldis Chapman finished the four-hitter.

Giants 4, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Brandon Belt hung in for a 21-pitch, 12-minute, 45-second at-bat before flying out and later homered.

Belt fouled off 11 straight pitches and 16 in all from rookie right-hander Jaime Barria (1-1) in the first inning in the majors' longest at-bat since records began in 1988. Belt singled and scored in the third and launched a leadoff

homer against Blake Parker in the fifth.

Dodgers 4, Nationals 3

In Los Angeles, Cody Bellinger followed Yasmani Grandal's two-run double with a tying RBI double in the sixth, and Corey Seager drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning of Los Angeles' sixth win in seven games.

The Dodgers were largely dominated by Jeremy Hellickson until they erased a three-run deficit with three big hits

from their patchwork lineup.

Cubs 9, Rockies 7

In Denver, Nolan Arenado was initially called safe by umpire Cory Blaser when he tried to score on a bases-loaded pitch that bounced to the backstop, then was ruled out when a video review concluded reliever Brandon Morrow applied the tag on a throw from catcher Willson Contreras.

Cubs star Kris Bryant was hit on the head with a 96 mph pitch from German Marquez in the first inning and left the game.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2

In Phoenix, Patrick Corbin (4-0) struck out 11 in six innings, and Arizona (15-6) became the first team since San Francisco in 2003 to win its first seven series.

Nick Ahmed hit a two-run homer for the Diamondbacks. Archie Bradley struck out Jose Pirela with a runner on third for his second save.

Indians 7, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Jose Ramirez homered twice and drove in three runs, and Corey Kluber (3-1) won his third straight start, allowing three runs and six hits in seven-plus innings.

Manny Machado hit two solo homers for Baltimore, his third multihomer game this season. Baltimore (6-16) has lost ninth of 10.

Royals 8, Tigers 5

In Detroit, Mike Moustakas hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh off Buck

Browns asking for trouble if they select 2 QBs in same draft



CLEVELAND (AP)

—For a moment last week, an NFC personnel man was presented with a watercooler debate. He was warned in advance: The question wasn't meant to suggest the scenario would ever play out in an NFL draft room. Just for entertainment purposes, he was asked to present an argument—any argument—for why the Cleveland Browns should take quarterbacks with the first and fourth overall picks in this week's NFL draft.

“It's not even worth debating,” the executive said with an eyeroll tone. “That will never happen. It really can't happen for a lot of reasons. That's movie [expletive]. It's not even worth getting into.”

That was a common refrain over the past week, when a handful of personnel evaluators were asked if there was

even a slightly logical reason the Browns would take two quarterbacks with the first and fourth overall picks. While drafting USC's Sam Darnold at No. 1 and UCLA's Josh Rosen No. 4 overall might make a lively barstool argument, NFL evaluators will tell you the conversation is also just ... well ... dumb.

Even if it would (in theory) give Cleveland two top-end candidates to solve a decades-long problem, it invites too much immediate disaster. Played out in reality, it would fall apart as soon as the second quarterback came off the board at the No. 4 overall pick—at which point the agents of both players would contact the Browns to let them know someone needed to be traded immediately.

But that conversation and potential problems have a correlation to what might actually happen this week. In reality, the Browns very well

may select two quarterbacks, something akin to the Washington Redskins in the 2012 draft, when then-coach Mike Shanahan plucked Robert Griffin III and Kirk Cousins in the first and fourth rounds. It may be yet another wrong decision, given Cleveland's track record of finding new and more frustrating ways to screw up a quarterback decision.

With that in mind, the Redskins' decision in 2012 is worth considering. In one way, that two-quarterback selection wasn't groundbreaking. Since the draft was shortened to seven rounds in 1994, eight franchises have taken two quarterbacks in the same draft. But only the Redskins took their tandem in the top four rounds, creating a dynamic that didn't exist elsewhere. While four rounds may have separated RG3 and Cousins, time would show that both were starting-caliber

players.

Of course, that's a good problem to have, maybe even intended. And definitely the best situation Washington could have asked for when RG3 suffered a knee injury that changed his career. But there was a deeper element that speaks to quarterback investment like the one Washington made. And that is the mental toll it takes on both players.

From the years of covering the league and speaking with both Griffin and Cousins, there is no denying that Washington's quarterbacks room was, at best, tense. And at worst, conflicted. A large part of that stemmed from the reality that Shanahan drafted two players who believed they could be starters. In a way, it removed the “support” dynamic that teams will build in the quarterbacks' room, where a defined starter is flanked by a clear backup.

Farmer after Drew VerHagen (0-1) walked two batters. The Royals won for only the second time in 12 games, and Moustakas extended his hitting streak to 14.

Kevin McCarthy (1-0) became the first Kansas City reliever to win this season.

Rays 8, Twins 6

In St. Petersburg, Carlos Gomez, in a 2-for-38 slide, hit a two-run homer off Addison Reed (0-1) in the ninth.

Daniel Robertson had a career-high four hits for Tampa Bay, which has gone 7-5 after a 1-8 start.

Phillies 3, Pirates 2

In Philadelphia, Aaron Altherr hit a winning single in the 11th after Andrew Knapp's opposite-field triple off the left-field wall against Rich Rodriguez (0-1). Philadelphia swept a four-game series against Pittsburgh for the first time since May 12-15, 1994.

Yacksel Rios (3-0) pitched a scoreless inning, stranding two runners.

Brewers 4, Marlins 2

In Milwaukee, Christian Yelich hit his first home run since coming off the disabled list, and Milwaukee completed a four-game sweep that extended its winning streak to six and dropped Miami to 5-16.

Junior Guerra (2-0) allowed one unearned run and five hits in five innings, and Josh Hader also gave up an unearned run in getting six outs for his third save.

Cardinals 9, Reds 2

In St. Louis, Kolten Wong and Paul DeJong homered to back Miles Mikolas (3-0). St. Louis has won eight of nine overall and 11 in a row over the Reds.

Cincinnati has lost five in a row and 13 of 14. The Reds have the worst record in the majors at 3-18 and are 0-3 since firing manager Bryan Price and replacing him with Jim Riggleman.

Rangers 7, Mariners 4

In Texas, Nomar Mazara and Joey Gallo homered as Texas opened a 4-0 lead in the fourth against Erasmo Ramirez (0-1), who allowed five runs and five hits over 4 2/3 innings in his season debut.

Martin Perez (2-2) gave up seven hits, walked a batter and hit another one in six innings before leaving with a 5-2 lead.

Ginobili's big finish helps Spurs stay alive



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Ettore Messina was screaming at the Spurs, and Manu Ginobili loved it.

Before Gregg Popovich, Ginobili played in Italy for Messina, and on Sunday he delivered a throwback performance for his old coach to save the Spurs' season.

Experiencing a flashback to his days playing for Messina in the Euroleague in his early 20s, the 40-year-old Ginobili scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter to help San Antonio beat the Golden State Warriors 103-90. The Spurs avoided a series sweep as Popovich missed his second straight game following the death of his wife, Erin, on Wednesday.

In his 16th season in the NBA and perhaps the final home game of his career, Ginobili rebounded from a scoreless effort in Game 3 to help Messina capture his first playoff victory as a coach, albeit an unofficial one.

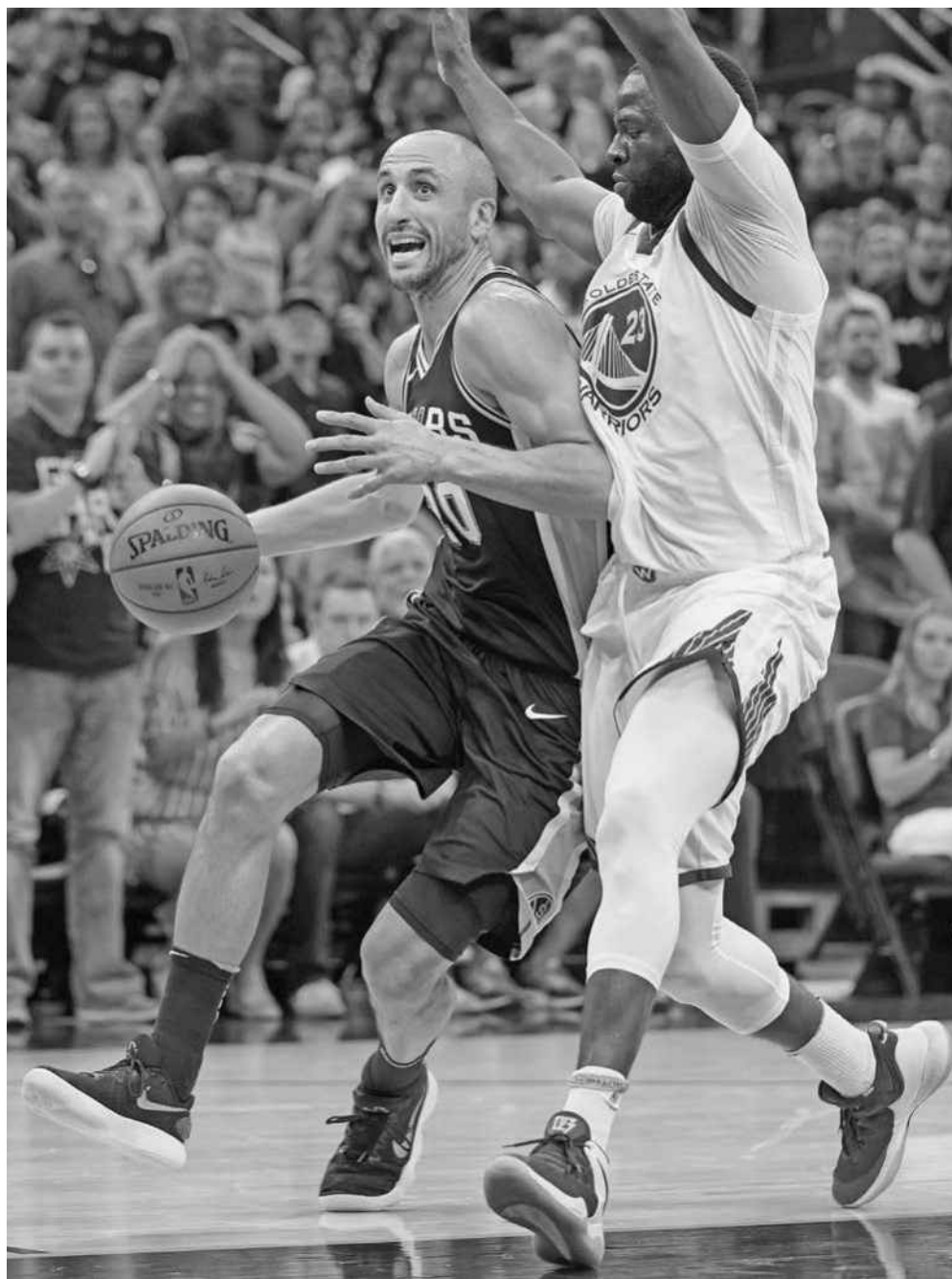
"For moments when he talks to the rest of the team, or when he gets upset and he yells at us, a lot of flashbacks," Ginobili said, chuckling. "He's very strict and he wants the team to play his way, so whenever we stopped executing the way we should have, the old himself comes back. It was good to see him coaching on this stage. Good memories."

Ginobili played for Messina, while both were with Virtus Bologna in 2000-02.

Kevin Durant had 34 points and 13 rebounds for the Warriors, who can wrap up the series in Game 5 at home Tuesday.

"You have got to give them a lot of credit," Golden State forward Draymond Green said. "They came out and they probably played with more intensity this game than they did the entire series."

LaMarcus Aldridge had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead



the Spurs, but they were willed to the finish by Ginobili, who has said he will decide in the offseason if he will return for a 17th season.

Ginobili was 3 for 4 in the final quarter, including making both of his 3-point attempts, and did not have a turnover in 6 1/2 minutes.

"I am so happy for him," Messina said. "I'm so happy. I think he deserves everything that is happening to him in his life and his career."

Golden State outscored San

Antonio 29-21 in the third quarter and went on a 13-5 run beginning two minutes into the fourth quarter to pull within 88-86 with 6 minutes remaining after trailing by as many as 17.

Aldridge banked in a 3-pointer with 4:22 remaining to stop the Warriors' run.

Cavaliers 104, Pacers 100

In Indianapolis, LeBron James scored 32 points and combined with Kyle Korver for all

but two of Cleveland's final 13 points as the Cavaliers evened the first-round series against Indiana at two games apiece.

James added 13 rebounds and seven assists in his 100th career playoff game with 30 or more points. Korver made four 3-pointers and wound up with 18 points.

Domantas Sabonis scored 19 points for Indiana. Myles Turner and Victor Oladipo each scored 17, though Oladipo struggled through a poor shooting night.

San Antonio Spurs' Manu Ginobili, left, drives against Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green during the second half of Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in San Antonio, Sunday, April 22, 2018, in San Antonio. San Antonio won, 103-90.

Bucks 104, Celtics 102

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 27 points, including tipping in the go-ahead basket with 5 seconds left, and Milwaukee beat Boston to tie its first-round playoff series at two games apiece.

Boston's Marcus Morris missed a 14-footer at the buzzer with Khris Middleton's hand in his face to seal a nail-biting win for the Bucks.

Seconds earlier, the 6-foot-11 Antetokounmpo jumped and reached up with his left arm around Boston's Jayson Tatum to put back Malcolm Brogdon's missed layup for the game-winner.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Boston.

Jaylen Brown had 34 points for the Celtics, while Tatum added 21. Tatum's 18-footer with 52 seconds left gave the Celtics a brief 100-99 lead.

Wizards 106, Raptors 98

In Washington, John Wall

took over down the stretch after Bradley Beal fouled out, having a hand in 10 of Washington's last 14 points and finishing with 27 points and 14 assists as the No. 8 seed Wizards came back to beat No. 1 Toronto and even the Eastern Conference first-round playoff series at 2-all.

The game was tied at 92 with about five minutes left when Beal—who led Washington with 31 points—drew his sixth foul on a play in which he and DeMar DeRozan collided while Toronto had the ball. Beal raced along the sideline, put his hands on his head, then returned to the Wizards' bench area and threw a red towel before being restrained by teammates.

The Raptors went up by two, but Wall pulled the Wizards even with a layup that drew a goaltending call, then put the hosts in front to stay by feeding Markieff Morris for a layup off the glass. As the final seconds ticked away, Wall held up two fingers on each hand. Yep, it's 2-2, and the home team has won every game so far.

Toronto will host Game 5 on Wednesday.

DeRozan started 0 for 6, before winding up with 35 points, six assists and six rebounds. Kyle Lowry scored 19 points for Toronto.

Popovich, Spurs unwilling to trade Leonard to Lakers

The curious disconnect between Kawhi Leonard and the San Antonio Spurs may be coming to a head, as a report indicated Gregg Popovich was open to the possibility of trading the former MVP candidate.

As it stands, Leonard has just one year remaining on his contract. However, the Spurs can offer him an extension this summer in excess of \$200 million. Some, such as Kyrie Irving and Paul George, have opted against signing such a deal.

However, the more common decision has been for a player to take the guaranteed money. What Leonard may opt for is anyone's guess. He reportedly has a preference to be traded to the Lakers.

That may prove to be a difficult, if not impossible scenario. According to sources, Popovich refuses to trade with a team such as the Lakers:

It's one of Popovich's cardinal rules not to help Western Conference rivals, much less one with the tradition and resources of the Lakers.

The Lakers have young players in Lonzo Ball, Josh

Hart, Brandon Ingram and Kyle Kuzma they can build a trade package around, but lack sufficient or enticing draft picks. In comparison, the Boston Celtics are armed with a slew of picks.

Moreover, L.A. could simply decide against breaking up their young core, instead focus on signing at least one of LeBron James and Paul George this summer, and then make a run at Leonard should he become a 2019 free agent.

It remains entirely plausible that Popovich and the Spurs refuse to trade Leonard at this time, or at all. They went through a similar scenario with LaMarcus Aldridge, which prompted Popovich to have a heart-to-heart discussion with his disgruntled big man.

Popovich admitted to self reflection and a need to improve, which led to a blossoming relationship with Aldridge. And though the situation with Leonard may appear beyond repair, if anyone is capable of getting it back on track, it's Popovich and the Spurs.

Landry wins Texas Open for first PGA Tour title



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Andrew Landry won the Valero Texas Open on Sunday for his

first PGA Tour victory, pulling away with early birdies and holding on with par saves.

The 30-year-old Texan, busy at home in Austin with the recent birth of the family's first child, parred the final seven holes for a 4-under 68 and a two-stroke victory over Trey Mullinax and Sean O'Hair.

"It was obviously a tough week this week," Landry said. "Going into the last few weeks with the childbirth and just really getting back out."

Landry played at Arkansas

after starring at Port Neches-Groves High School east of Houston. Many family members were at TPC San Antonio on Sunday.

"Everybody was out," Landry said. "It was pretty special to be able to snag a victory with everybody being here to share it."

Landry finished at 17-under 271. He earned \$1,116,000 and a spot in the Masters next year.

"I didn't even really think about it, to be honest with you," Landry said. "There's a lot of perks for a tour win and you've just got to continue to stay focused and not think about those kind of things."

Landry took a two-stroke

lead to the par-5 18th after Mullinax chunked a flop shot and bogeyed the short par-4 17th. Landry hit a 55-foot putt over a ridge to 3 feet for par on 17 and made an 8-footer on 18 after running a 50-foot downhill birdie try past.

Mullinax closed with a 69 a day after breaking the ATT Oaks Course record with a 62.

"Just a lot of confidence. I know my game's there, I'm playing really well," Mullinax said. "Give all credit to Andrew. He played really well today, rock steady. He was putting great, hitting great shots."

O'Hair shot 66.

"When I'm good, I'm really good, and when I'm not good,

Aces trip Ballistics in SBL

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Aces may miss the playoffs in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League, but that did not stop them from ending their season on a winning note.

Lamar Iguel had six RBIs and was a home run short of making the cycle to lead the Aces to a 23-15 victory over Ballistics last Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Aces finished the regular season with a 5-4 and their playoff chances would have depended on the outcome of last night's meeting. League coordinator Tony Rogolifo met with the team managers to decide whether the Top 4 or Top 8 teams would advance to the

playoffs and at press time yesterday no announcement on the playoff format has been made.

Go See Mark are on top of the team standings with an 8-1 record, followed by the Chalan Kanoa Bears (7-1), the Falcons (6-2), and the Mariners (6-3). The Bears and Falcons will play in one of the last two matches in the regular season, as their scheduled duel last April 18 was cancelled due to rain.

If the SBL would follow the eight-team playoff, the Aces, Titanium (5-4), Blue Jays (3-6), and Ballistics (3-6) would join in the postseason the four teams that are at the upper half of the standings. The Indians (0-8) and Outlaws (0-8) are out.



Iguel led the defending champions' victory last weekend, as he went 3-for-6 and made a two-RBI single, a double, and a triple, and scored three times. John Tudela and Vince Torres drove in three runs apiece with the former going 4-for-5 with two doubles and five runs. Torres had a bases-clearing triple, as the Aces scored seven runs at the top of the first inning. He batted 3-for-7 to end up with two runs, a double, and a triple.

Aces catcher Ben Jones had a double and five runs on a 4-for-6 batting. He led off the first and seventh inning with a single and a double.

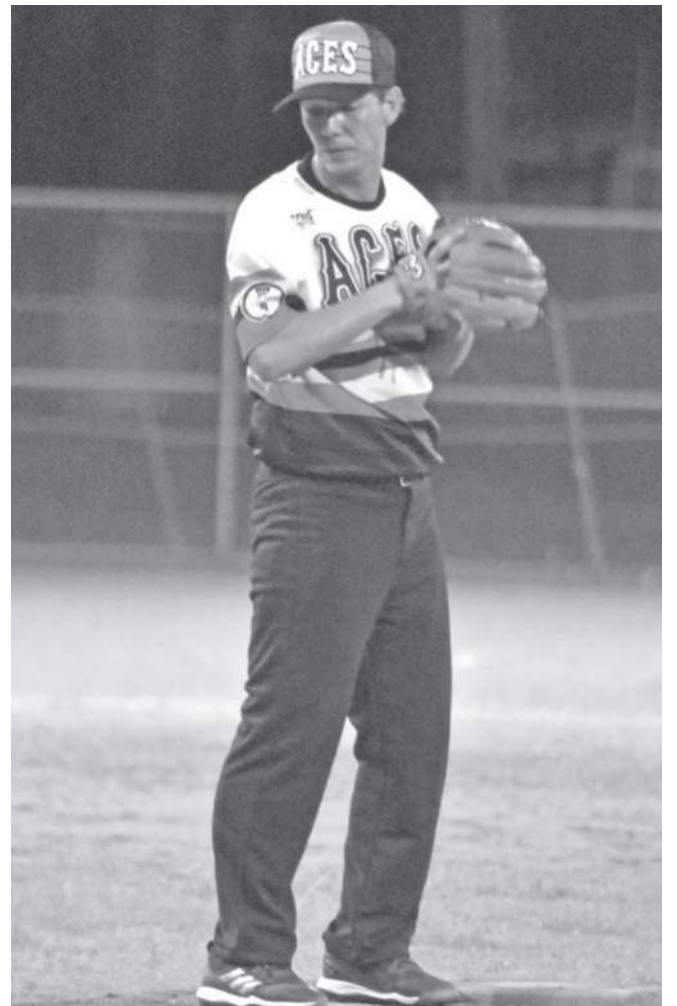
The loss foiled Keoni Lizama's three-run homer for the

Ballistics. He now joins an exclusive club (players who homered this season) composed of A.J. Lizama, Brian Camacho, Shane Yamada, and Larson Sibetang. A.J. Lizama is the only SBL player to have hit two home runs this season.

Ballistics 7, Indians 6

Adolpho Roppul fanned 10 in six innings to help the Ballistics keep the Indians winless last Thursday night. He gave up four runs, all unearned, on two hits with three walks.

Brandon Pua closed out for Ballistics and despite allowing M.J. Sakisat and Jared Camacho to score, he got the last two outs when he picked off Robert Tudela before forcing Jason Camacho to ground out to first.



JON PEREZ

Aces pitcher Peter "Dung" Tenorio prepares to throw to the plate during their game against Ballistics in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League last Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Diaz caging starts U15 playoffs today

By ROSELYN B. MONROY

roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The race for the two finals berths in the boys U15 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League begins today with the second-seeded Saipan Vegas taking on the last placers Dandan Sonics in a playoff game at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan Vegas finished the regular season with a 4-2 record after routing Bruce Almighty in last Saturday's make-up match, 66-40. Saipan Vegas won the three-way tie for the No. 2 seed, relegating the RT Law NMI Rollers and NSA Young Warriors to No. 3 and 4, respectively. The 670 Sonics (6-0), Bruce Almighty (2-4),

Marauders NM Rollers (1-5), and Dandan Sonics (0-6) completed the team standings.

The Dandan Sonics and Saipan Vegas will face off in the single-elimination playoffs with the winner advancing to the semis and meeting the victor in the RT Law NMI Rollers-Marauders NMI Rollers tiff in the battle for the second finals seat. The Law NMI Rollers-Marauders NMI Rollers match is set for 6:15pm today, while the Dandan Sonics-Saipan Vegas game will start at 5pm.

This Thursday, it will be the NSA Young Warriors versus Bruce Almighty and the team that will prevail will challenge the No. 1 seed 670 Sonics, who automatically moved into



the semis after topping the regular season. The two Final Four games will be played on May 1, while the winner-take-all finals will be held on May 3.

Saipan Vegas will go into the postseason with momentum on its side following its demolition of Bruce Almighty.

Francisco Mizutani led Saipan Vegas' easy win after firing 16 points. Donavin Deleon Guerrero and Steve King chipped in 14 and 13, respectively, while Anthony Lazaro also finished in twin digits with 11, 8 of them came in the final half.

Juan Guerrero had 20 markers on a losing effort for Bruce Almighty.

Meanwhile, Marauders NMI Rollers split its final two

match by Kimura submission, settled for the silver despite going all out against his finals foe.

"My final match was pure war. My opponent and I literally turned our [BJJ] match into a wrestling match," Agda said. "We were just fighting to take-down. We both felt each other's power so none of us wanted to take the risk of getting on our back. We were tied in points almost the whole rounds."

He added that he lost the gold when his opponent managed to shug him down and earn the win by advantage. "I definitely gave it my all and the

most important thing was that I went out there and had fun."

In other results, BJJ professor Clinton Dela Cruz, Cuki Alvarez, Jeff Garcia, and Ken Tanzawa had tougher assignments in their respective divisions, especially the former who competed as a black belter.

"Clinton and I fought and did our best, but fell short. That's how the way goes, we live and we learn, we move forward and we inspire," said Alvarez, who scored a 7-0 win over Joe Cruz in his first match.

The team wanted to thank Bridge Capital, MARPAL,

With Kanoa winning the boys U15 champion, the club has notched titles in three age groups and missing only one (either boys U17 or U18) in the competitive division. It took the girls U15 crown in the 2017 fall season and the co-ed U12 in the 2016 and 2007 fall. The club is the third youngest member of Northern Mariana Islands Football Association behind Southern United and Tin-

ian Premier FC. MP United, Matansa, Paire, and the defunct Independents FC were the founding members, while TanHoldings and Shirley's made up the second batch of the group.

Meanwhile, Paire finished the season at fifth place with its 2-0-8 mark, a win ahead of cellar dweller Shirley's FC. Jon Villagomez and Kaden Church scored the two goals for the losing squad.

games in the regular season last Saturday.

Marauders NMI Rollers first edged Dandan Sonics, 40-32, before bowing to sister team RT Law NMI Rollers, 26-54.

Against the Dandan Sonics, Gerald Beronio dropped 14 of his 17 points in the second half to lift the Marauders NMI Rollers to its lone win in the competition. He scored 6 of the squad's last 8 points to foil the Dandan Sonics' comeback bid.

Versus RT Law NMI Rollers, Beronio also finished in twin digits with his 11 markers, but he lacked support from his teammates, allowing their foes to cruise to victory.

Tars Kapwich and Ervin Villarin teamed up in powering the RT Law NMI Rollers to the 28-point winning margin after recording 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Team Crank Industries, crankeffect.com, Hertz, and an anonymous individual for helping them fund their trip down south.

Meanwhile, Joel Subang, a Saipan resident and used to train at Trench Tech, but is now currently studying in Guam, also won a gold medal.

Pena dominated Jackson Sousa Dos Santos, 18-2, in the 181-210 lb class that drew nine fighters to pocket the \$10,000 cash prize. Bahiense went home with the same purse after edging Renato Canuto, 2-0, in the under 181 lb category finals.

MP United 2, Matansa 0

MP United shut down Matansa in the final game in the division this season and settled for the runner-up honors.

MP United wrapped up the competition with a 7-2-1 slate, while Matansa earned a 4-1-5 card to rank fourth.

Rintaryo Miyawaki nailed the pair of goals for MP United, bringing the team's total to 44. MP United yielded the

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and Jesse Norita had singles.

Aguon, the lone Falcons player in the batting leaders, went 2-for-4 with a two-RBI single in the third and scored a run. Evangelista reached home twice in a perfect performance at the plate, 4-for-4, and had RBI singles each in the first and fifth inning.

Pangelinan had a two-RBI single also at the bottom of the first and was struck out in the third before being replaced by Andre Iguel in the fourth.

Pirates 16, McDonald's 2

Deandrey Cruz belted a three-run homer in the third, as the Bridge Capital Pirates made short work of McDonald's in the other Majors division game last Sunday.

Joey Dela Cruz had a lead-off walk, while Josh Atalig had a free ride on base that set up Cruz's second round-tripper this season to join teammate Charles McDonald on the list of players with two homers.

Cruz, who was hit by a pitch in his first at bat, scored three

times and had a two-RBI double in the Pirates' 11-run first inning. He finished with five RBIs.

Atalig tossed four innings of one-hit game with one earned run, while fanning six and walking five.

MINOR LEAGUE Marlins 4, Comets 1

Nick Sablan had 10 strikeouts in a no-hit job to lead the Kagman Marlins past the Comets. He also had four walks and scored two of their team's four runs.

Sablan belted a two-run inside-the-park homer at the bottom of the third to bring Roque Pangelinan home. Pangelinan earlier singled with one out.

Derelle Abraham scored the lone run for the Comets.

Games in the Minors division are played in a one-hour time limit.

SENIOR LEAGUE Fielders 15, Comets 2

Jordan Babauta fanned eight and held the Comets to two hits in the Fielders' easy win.

He was hit by pitch twice in his three plate appearances and grounded out to first at the bottom of the third.

least goal this season with 12.

Matansa made only 24 goals and allowed 21.

TanHoldings 9, Shirley's 1

TanHoldings registered the most goals this season with its 69 after its easy win over Shirley's in the first game last weekend.

Taka Borja added four to the total of the third-ranked TanHoldings, which ended

the competition with a 5-1-4 record. Borja delivered back-to-back goals in the fifth and seventh minute and had his last two in the 22nd and 40th.

Brandon Tenorio contributed two, while Ekeziel Canape, Aloyzeus Angeles, and Taro Goto chipped in one apiece.

Shirley's, which had only one win to show this season, avoided a shutout loss, thanks to Hassan Rakib's goal in the 49th minute.

KANOA

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and Gil Sean were the other scorers for the newly-crowned champion with the former getting his goal in the 10th minute and the latter closing out for Kanoa in the 69th.

After collecting 10 goals in their last game, Kanoa totaled 58 and gave up 18, which were both second best in the division.

5th Annual PIC Hafa Adai 5K Color Run

PHOTOS By MACKENZIE PEREZ



Two participants wearing tutus are on their way to completing the 5th Annual Pacific Islands Club Hafa Adai 5K Color Run held last Saturday.



U.S. Army recruiter SFC Nicole Ann Bird nears the finish line of the morning fun run at the Pacific Islands Club.



Young runners enjoy being covered with powder during the 5K run.



Steve McKagan, left, finishes the run with wife Kimiko, their daughter Mika, and their dog Hanako.



A pet owner runs beside her dog. The Saipan Cares for Animals is the recipient of this year's fundraising event.



A female runner slows down as she nears the finish line.



Marianas High School's Filipino Club members celebrate as they near the finish line.



Jovi Chavez, left, tries to finish ahead of his son Mark.



Astros rout White Sox, roll to 6th straight win

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kanoa gets first boys U15 title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club finally made it to the elite circle of champions after ruling the boys U15 division of the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Kanoa secured the league switched to U14 the division crown, age group in 2016 and which was won by MP United and TanHoldings before completing the double-round robin com-



Pennant within Falcons' reach

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Chris Gonzales pitched a complete game, while Noah Aguon, Achilles Evangelista, and Chris Pangelinan drove in two runs each, as the Talaabwogh Falcons defeated the Kagman Little Legals, 10-2, in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball last Sunday at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield.

The win was the seventh in as many games for the Falcons and it moved them closer to clinching the pennant in the Majors division. It was the Little Legals' first loss in seven matches. The Falcons and Little Legals were tied atop the standings with similar 6-0 slates before their much-awaited clash which could be a preview of this season's title match.



Gonzales surrendered eight hits with the Little Legals' two runs both earned. He also struck out four batters, while walking none. Benji Palacios, who had a triple with two outs at the top of the second inning, reached home on Reed Camacho's RBI single and the latter scored on Derrence Diaz's RBI single.

Gonzales retired the Little Legals' first three batters, including G-Boy Pangelinan, the current second placer in the batting leaders, but went 0-for-3 in last weekend's game. Batting leader Cardi Borja also failed to get a hit against Gonzales, going 0-for-3.

Palacios and Gunner Sablan each had two of the Little Legals' eight hits. Jon Diaz and Derrence Diaz doubled, while Camacho

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JON PEREZ

A Falcons runner gets ready to head to third during an earlier game in the Majors division of the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield. The Falcons are undefeated in seven games after beating the Kagman Little Legals last Sunday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kanoa Football Club players and coach Irish Pagarao, standing center, pose for a group photo after clinching the boys U15 division title in the 2018 NMIFA Spring Youth League last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

petition with an undefeated record (8-2-0 win-draw-loss). It capped its perfect run this season with an emphatic 10-2 victory over Paire last Saturday at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Jim Kurt Maniago and Merrick Toves starred in Kanoa's lopsided win after scoring three goals each with the former's shots coming in succession, as he found the back of the net in the 40th, 44th, and

47th minute. Toves, on the other hand, drew first blood for Kanoa with his conversion in the eight minute, while he completed a hat trick after lighting up the board anew in the 24th and 49th minute.

Ian Karl Maniago backed up his older brother Jim and Toves after making a brace with his first goal recorded in the 55th minute and the second in the 61st. Brian Lubao

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By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Team CNMI had a fruitful campaign in Guam, winning one gold and two silver medals in the 2018 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Tournament held last Sunday at the Father Duenas Memorial School Phoenix Center in Mangilao, Guam.

Giovanni Taitingfong struck gold, while Kier Agda and Paulo Sangalang went home with a silver each in the one-day tournament that attracted some of the top grapplers in the world, including Isaque Bahienser and Felipe Pena, who defended their respective titles in last weekend's event.

Taitingfong, competing as a blue belt, ruled the 131 to 145 lb weight division after beating a local bet by points in the finals.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that he wanted to move up to

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NMI grapplers win in Guam



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left front row, Kier Agda, Paulo Sangalang, and Giovanni Taitingfong display their medals as they join the rest of Team CNMI for a group photo after last Sunday's 2018 Marianas Open Brazilian Jiu-jitsu Tournament in Guam.